THE UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN SERIALS DIVISION

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in Jordan by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الرأي»

German hit in attack on Nile cruiser

ASSIYUT (AP) — A German woman was shot in the neck Friday by gunmen who attacked a Nile cruise boat carrying holidaymakers through a southern Egyptian Village known for extremism. Security officials in Assiyut, 32 kilometres south of Cairo, said police did not know how many assailants fired on the boat but that they used machineguns. The boat, which had 33 German tourists among its passengers, was the second boat in a two-boat convoy travelling north from Luxor to Cairo. Its windows were smashed, but the accompanying cruiser was not hit. It was the first cruise boat attacked since Sept. 18. Hospital spokesmen reported the woman was in critical condition. Jurgen Steltzer, spokesman at the German embassy, said police guarding the boat returned fire, but there was no word on whether any of the attackers was hit. Mr. Steltzer said he understood nobody else was harmed on the boat. He said he had not been able to confirm the woman's name.

Bahrain dismisses Qatari approach

THE HAGUE (R) — Bahrain on Friday dismissed Qatar's allegations that it was flexing its military muscles in the disputed Hawar Islands and said it would not be dragged before the International Court of Justice as Qatar's captive. In hearings before the United Nations court, Bahrain rejected Qatar's claim to sovereignty over the Hawar Islands and the reefs of Dibal and Jaradah. But it declined to discuss the accusations that it had recently brought heavy artillery and military vehicles into Hawar and concentrated soley on the 60-year old sovereignty dispute which Qatar submitted to the court in July 1991. Bahrain's Minister for Legal Affairs Husain Mohammad Al Bahama said Qatar's unilateral application to the court was a ploy to gain an unfair advantage. "Qatar intends to set up the case in a way that suits it ... and control the range of issues on which the court will decide," he said. "Bahrain will be happy to come to the court, but not as the captive of Qatar." Tension between the two Gulf states flared into a military confrontation in 1986 but was later cooled by Saudi mediation.

Volume 18 Number 5554 AMMAN SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1994, RAMADAN 23, 1414 Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Israelis bombard in south Lebanon

RASHAYA (AP) — Israeli troops blasted Lebanese guerrillas making a fresh attempt to infiltrate an Israeli-occupied enclave in South Lebanon and shelled their suspected bases early Friday, security sources said. It was the third failed infiltration into the border strip since last Friday's massacre in Hebron. The sources said guerrillas of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah tried to move into the Israeli-occupied territory around midnight (2200 GMT) Thursday. Israeli troops spotted the infiltrators and blasted them with tank fire, said the sources.

Kurds bomb Iraqi pipeline in Turkey

DIYARBAKIR (R) — Rebel Kurds in southeast Turkey bombed a blockaded pipeline full of Iraqi crude oil in the fourth such attack in the past six weeks, officials said on Friday. The blast caused fire but no casualties. Members of the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) attacked the pipeline between Cizre and Idil towns, near the Iraqi border, on Thursday, the officials said. The fire was put out and there was no loss of oil from the pipeline, they said. The 986-kilometre pipeline, which runs from the Iraqi oilfields of Kirkuk to Turkey's southern coast, has not been used since August 1990, when Ankara shut it down under a U.N. trade embargo imposed on Baghdad for its invasion of Kuwait. When operational the pipeline earns money for Turkey. About four million barrels of crude oil are trapped in the pipeline and officials say it should be emptied to prevent corrosion.

Norwegian questioned for Rushdie threat

OSLO (AP) — Police questioned and released the head of a Muslim organisation in Norway who publicly threatened Friday to try to kill British writer Salman Rushdie if he comes to a conference on freedom of expression. A day earlier, the national writers' association invited Mr. Rushdie and other writers who have been exposed to death threats to a Sept. 21-23 conference in the west coast city of Stavanger. "If I get hold of weapons and if I have the opportunity of getting to him — then I won't give him up," said Ibrahim Yildiz, president of the Muslim association of Rogaland in western Norway. His comments were broadcast on radio by NRK Rogaland. The national news agency, NTB, said police in Stavanger brought Yildiz in for questioning, then released him without charge.

Columbia blasts off

CAPE CANAVERAL (AP) — After a one-day weather delay, Columbia thundered towards space Friday with five astronauts on a two-week science mission that could break the shuttle endurance record. Columbia soared into a clear sky at 8:53 a.m. EST (1353 GMT), right on time. It was an ideal morning for a launch. Thursday's liftoff attempt was called off the day before, hours before fuelling, because high wind was predicted. The forecasts proved true. The shuttle is supposed to spend 13 days and 23 hours in orbit, just an hour shy of the longest shuttle mission, flown by Columbia last October. The crew is hoping for a landing delay — just one extra orbit will do — to break the record.

Indian police arrest 'Pakistani agents'

NEW DELHI (AP) — Police arrested six suspects, including four Pakistanis, accused of planning acts of "terrorism" in India, New Delhi's police chief said Friday. Also arrested Wednesday and Thursday were a Bangladeshi and an Indian, and police seized a stock of explosives and grenades, said M.B. Kaushal, the police commander. The alleged conspirators possessed computer floppy discs with plans to blow up important buildings and shrines, and instructions on the use of weapons, he told a news conference. Mr. Kaushal claimed the suspects were trained by the Inter-Services Intelligence, Pakistan's foreign intelligence wing which India blames for training and arming Muslim separatists in the disputed state of Kashmir.

Israeli troops, settlers kill four Palestinians

NABLUS, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot dead two Palestinians during clashes on Friday in a Palestinian refugee camp in the occupied West Bank, a local hospital said.

The deaths brought to four the number of Arabs killed in violence in the occupied territories on Friday.

Earlier Friday, Jewish settlers killed a Palestinian and troops shot dead another in the occupied territories as the bloodletting spawned by the Hebron mosque massacre based into its second week with no end in sight.

But Israeli security forces, deploying in strength, smothered expected trouble in Jerusalem — even briefly banning Jews from the western wall, in an unprecedented move to avoid clashes with angry Arab worshippers.

The army said three Palestinian assailants stabbed two Israelis, one an immigrant from India, at the Gaza Strip settlement of Gush Katif. The Israelis shot one Palestinian dead and wounded another.

Arab sources said a 17-year-old Palestinian, believed to belong to the Islamic Jihad faction, was shot dead in Gaza City when he stabbed a soldier outside a mosque.

Arab sources said a 24-year-old Palestinian was shot in the head and killed by troops during clashes in the Balata refugee camp in Nablus.

The trouble erupted after rampaging settlers smashed a dozen Arab-owned cars during the night.

In Hebron, masked Palestinians, some firing marbles from slingshots, defied a curfew to clash with troops in barricade-clogged streets choking with clouds of tear-gas and black smoke from burning tyres.

The fighting centred around the domed Ali Baba Mosque as the army tried to stop Muslims going out to pray.

Palestinian factions urged people to break the curfew to pray at the Ibrahimi Mosque, site of the massacre, and called on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to halt negotiations with Israel until all settlers have been disarmed and removed from the territories.

All other major towns in the territories except Bethlehem were still under curfew.

Security authorities, fearing trouble would flare Friday after Muslims attended prayers, deployed in large numbers throughout the occupied territories.

"There's still a lot of tension," said police spokesman Shmuel Ben Ruby.

Hundreds of armed policemen ringed the Haram Al Sharif complex, a frequent flashpoint and virtually sealed off the old walled city.

Young Muslims were barred from Al Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third holiest shrine, and Jews were moved away from the western wall for an hour.

That is the first time it has been blocked off and the move drew protests from ultra-orthodox Jewish groups.

The precautions were aimed at preventing Arabs at Al Aqsa atop the walled mount from stoning Jews below at the wall, which is generally crowded on the eve of the Jewish Sabbath.

After last Friday's massacre, Palestinians near Al Aqsa stoned Jewish worshippers. In October 1990, police killed 17 Palestinians in clashes around Al Aqsa after they stoned Jews.

The Islamic Waqf organisation, which looks after Muslim shrines in the complex, protested the Israeli measures.

Only about 20,000 Arabs were allowed to pray at Al Aqsa, a fraction of the number which usually turn out. Most were middle-aged or elderly.

Sheikh Mohammad Kafrawi, who delivered the sermon at Al Aqsa, told worshippers: "We're waiting for more massacres because there are so many Barucbs running around freely."

He appealed to worshippers not ot cause trouble, saying: "We don't need more bloodshed and more martyrs. We've

(Continued on page 5)

An Israeli soldier searches a Palestinian boy going to pray at Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque (AFP photo)

Shaath: U.S. backs armed observers in occupied lands

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) envoy Nabil Shaath Friday said the United Nations was near agreement, with U.S. backing, on a proposal for an armed international presence in the Israeli-occupied territories.

While he said discussions on "modalities and timing" for such a presence were still underway, Dr. Shaath was adamant that the presence would involve armed "security people."

Dr. Shaath said Secretary of State Warren Christopher supported the idea of stationing a U.N. force on the West Bank to protect Palestinians against Jewish residents.

However, Dr. Shaath said the PLO was not ready to reopen negotiations over self-rule with Israel. He said a U.N. resolution encompassing Palestinian demands had not been worked out yet.

"The resolution, including parts of it that are supported by the United States, includes an international presence in the occupied territories," Dr. Shaath said after a 90-minute meeting with Mr. Christopher.

He said there was no decision yet on the composition of the force. But dismissing any suggestion only civilians might be involved, Dr. Shaath said, "They have to be security people. We are not talking about historians and psychoanalysts."

Dr. Shaath called his meeting with Mr. Christopher, held a few hours before the secretary of state's departure for Asia, "positive" and added: "We are satisfied that we have the serious concerns of the United States reflected by the secretary and state department people and the president."

But while the PLO would like to resume negotiations with Israel, Dr. Shaath said, the resolution is not finished. He had meetings scheduled with other State Department and White House officials later in the day.

Dr. Shaath disavowed on Thursday night any intention of scuttling the 28-month-old peace process. But he said in light of the attack on a Hebron mosque by a Jewish extremist, "what we are doing is the only way that we need to go."

Dr. Shaath's arrival statement did not contain demands for the disarming of all Jews who live on the West Bank and Gaza, nor did he insist on uprooting the settlements.

But he said the Clinton administration should find ways to assist the Palestinians, possibly through the United Nations. "We really have to protect Palestinians from settlers and not just the other way around, as the Israelis have been assuming all along," he said.

In the meantime, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has not accepted President Clinton's invitation to hold negotiations here with Israel on arrangements for Palestinian self-rule, first in Jericho and Gaza and then throughout the West Bank.

Only a handful of issues stand in the way of implementing the self-rule declaration Israel and the PLO agreed to last year.

Dr. Shaath said peace talks provide the only guarantee that Palestinians "will have real security in the long run." But he said the attack on the mosque brought out the need for interim measures.

He did not say what the PLO wanted specifically. But PLO leaders have said all settlers should be disarmed and a U.N. observer force sent to the West Bank and Gaza.

"There is a lot that needs to be done and can be done," he said. "That's why I am here."

Even before the PLO officials arrived, Mr. Christopher had voiced his support for enhancing the security of Palestinians.

But it was not clear how far the Clinton administration

(Continued on page 5)

France calls for talks on settlements

PARIS (Agencies) — French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe urged Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Friday to negotiate the future of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, leading to their possible "regrouping."

"We believe the issue of the settlements and of their eventual regrouping should be the object of negotiations between the parties," Mr. Juppe told reporters afer meeting top PLO official Yasser Abed Rabbo.

An accord signed in Washington on Sept. 13 between Israel and the PLO said the future of the settlements would only come to the negotiating table three years after Palestinian self-rule began in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Juppe's statement appeared to indicate Paris no longer gave the full backing it offered so far to the accord following the massacre seven days ago by a Jewish settler of at least 60 Palestinians praying in the West Bank town of Hebron.

Defence Minister Francois Leotard, who separately met Mr. Abed Rabbo, offered the help of France's gendarmerie (para-military police) to train Palestinian policemen, trained so far in Egypt and Jordan.

Mr. Juppe repeated that France favoured the "neutralisation of all known extremists who wanted to kill peace" and that he was concerned about the weapons carried by settlers when they moved about the occupied territories.

He said Paris favoured the supervision of security measures in the occupied territories by international observers serving under the United Nations.

Mr. Juppe avoided a direct response when asked if France would contribute observers to such a mission.

"We insist that the security of the Palestinian population be ensured. It is the only way to render credible the peace process and we call on Israeli authorities... to take all the necessary measures," Mr. Juppe said.

The French minister said Paris hoped a draft resolution now before the United Nations Security Council and dealing with the situation would be passed soon.

French officials told reporters later the resolution was held up by American objections to references in the text to Jerusalem.

Mr. Leotard was due to visit Israel from March 9-11 and his office said he would meet local Palestinian leaders in occupied Arab East Jerusalem on March 10.

In Israel, U.S. and European envoys met Israeli leaders in search of concessions to calm Arab rage and allow the PLO to return to the negotiating table.

Israelis want colony

Polls in two major Israeli dailies Friday showed that most Israelis oppose uprooting 450 Jewish settlers living in the West Bank town of Hebron, scene of last week's massacre.

At least three ministers in Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's cabinet have said that the settlement in the heart of Hebron, which has a Palestinian population of 80,000, is provocative and should be dismantled.

Calls to close down the settlement and other Jewish settlements in Arab towns followed the Feb. 25 mosque massacre.

A poll published in Yedioth Ahronoth said only 40 per cent of 507 Israelis interviewed thought the government should evacuate settlements located in heavily populated Arab areas.

Fifty two per cent thought the settlers should be allowed to stay and eight per cent declined to respond.

All 4 defendants found guilty in New York blast

NEW YORK (Agencies) — A jury Friday found people guilty of bombing the World Trade Centre last year.

The verdicts came in the fifth day of deliberations by the jury of eight women and four men. They began deliberations on Feb. 23, just three days before the first anniversary of the explosion which left six people dead and injured more than 1,000.

The defendants in the case were Mohammad Salameh, Nidal Ayyad, Mahmoud Abu Halima and Ahmad Ajaj. Each was charged with 11 counts. The conspiracy charge was the main allegation in the indictment, although it carries a maximum sentence of only five years in prison, other related charges could send the men to prison for life.

Because there were no witnesses who could place any of the defendants at the landmark New York building on the day of the blast, the government built its case on a complex chain of circumstantial and scientific evidence. Prosecutors presented 207 witnesses and 1,003 exhibits during the trial, which began in September.

"Injustice," shouted Mr. Salameh as the verdicts were read. "God is great," the defendants shouted in Arabic, pounding on the defence tables. A supporter cried out: "My brother is innocent" and was quickly removed from the courtroom.

Prosecutors asserted Mr. Salameh, 26, a Jordanian immigrant, helped bankroll the attack, built the bomb and rented the van that carried it into the trade centre's underground parking garage.

They said Mr. Ayyad, 26, a chemist, ordered chemicals for the bomb and sent messages to news organisations afterward that the motive was to protest U.S. aid to Israel.

Witnesses said Mr. Abu Halima, 34, was frequently in the apartment where the bomb was built, while Ahmad Ajaj, 28, allegedly provided bomb-making expertise. Mr. Ajaj was in jail on a false-passport conviction when the blast happened.

Mr. Ajaj lived in Houston; the rest in New Jersey suburbs of New York City.

Defence attorneys contended that the government twisted the evidence to spin a web of conspiracy trapping the defendants.

While some defence lawyers would not even concede it was a bomb that devastated the trade centre, Mr. Salameh's lawyer, Robert Precht, surprisingly acknowledged during closing arguments that there was a bombing conspiracy and that his client was involved.

Mr. Precht insisted Mr. Salameh was an unwitting dupe of the alleged Ringleader, Ramzi Yousef, a fugitive, and therefore was innocent.

Mr. Salameh wrote a letter to Judge Kevin Duffy, saying "I object to everything Mr. Precht said in his summation." But Mr. Precht stood by his

(Continued on page 5)

U.N. says Serbs still raping, murdering Muslims in Bosnia

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Despite a successful ceasefire around Sarajevo, uniformed Serbs are raping, robbing and murdering Muslims in the north Bosnian town of Banja Luka, a U.N. relief official said on Friday.

"Banja Luka ... is one of the most grim places in Bosnia even though there's no shelling there," said Kris Janowski, spokesman for the Sarajevo office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

"There's a continuing campaign of intimidation, quite brutal intimidation — sometimes murder — against Muslims there."

With 55 per cent of the area's pre-war population and a tight grip on its major military installations, Serbs took control of Banja Luka in the first hours of Bosnia's 23-month ethnic war that has brought accusations of atrocities against all sides.

Serbs have driven Muslims from their homes ever since in a Serb policy dubbed "ethnic cleansing" to create wholly Serb territory, U.N. aides say.

Mr. Janowski cited three recent examples from a UNHCR staff report prepared in Banja Luka:

— A 72-year-old Muslim man slashed with knives until he was barely recognisable died in hospital in Banja Luka this week. The report said he had been attacked in his home by uniformed people at night.

— A 34-year-old Muslim woman was raped by uniformed men in front of her 10-year-old daughter, who was held at gun point.

— An 18-year-old Muslim girl was raped in her house by uniformed men because her parents did not have money to give them. The girl's parents were bound and her father was beaten in the incident.

Mr. Janowski added: "We know that at least five persons have been murdered since the beginning of January in Banja Luka. There are countless cases of people being beaten up, intimidated.

"Muslim neighbourhoods are raided by uniformed gangs of people who shoot out the windows and try to give them the message basically to get out."

Serb intimidation forced about 200 Muslims to flee the village of Bronzani Majdan outside Banja Luka last month. All are now seeking UNHCR assistance in leaving the country.

Asked who the assailants were, Mr. Janowsky replied: "We understand that they are either part of some sort of a militia or the Serb military. The authorities there tell us all the time they have nothing to do with it, that these people are some sort of criminals, but none of these cases have ever been followed by the authorities, no one has ever been punished.

"We assume that this is all done with the knowledge and at least the silent consent of the authorities otherwise they would do something to stop it, but they do absolutely nothing."

Every mosque in Banja Luka, including some of inter-

(Continued on page 5)

Zulu party to register for polls

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Zulu nationalists who vehemently opposed South Africa's first all-race election reversed themselves Friday and said they would register for the April vote.

But Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) set conditions for participating in the election, and a leading pro-apartheid white group refused to join its black ally in signing up for the vote.

Less than eight weeks remain until the April 26-28 vote, which will formally end apartheid by including the black majority for the first time.

The deadline for registering for the election was midnight (2200 GMT) Friday.

By agreeing to register, Inkatha signalled it believed international mediation could work out differences with the African National Congress (ANC) and President F.W. de Klerk's government on the powers of regional governments in a new constitution.

Mr. Buthelezi and ANC leader Nelson Mandela met this week and agreed on international mediation in return for Inkatha's registering for the election.

Inkatha's central committee endorsed that agreement Friday, but said any participation in the election beyond registration depended on the mediation forging acceptable solutions on Inkatha's demand for an autonomous Zulu state.

It also said mediators must make sure all participants in the election have equal opportunity to campaign if the voting dates remain as scheduled.

Greece tries to narrow Israel-PLO differences

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinian negotiator Faisal Husseini said Friday that stalled Middle East peace talks will not resume until Israel gives "positive answers" to Palestinian demands for better protection following the Hebron mosque massacre.

Mr. Husseini spoke to reporters after an hour-long meeting with Foreign Minister Carolos Papoulias of Greece, which currently holds the European Union (EU) presidency.

Mr. Papoulias also met Friday with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

"All this exchange of ideas is aimed at overcoming the crisis," Mr. Papoulias said.

He said an international force to protect the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip was among ideas under discussion.

But he did not say if Israel has softened its opposition to any outside military presence, a move the Israelis consider diminishes their authority in the occupied territories.

Mr. Peres said after meeting Mr. Papoulias: "We're ready to consider every possible means to enhance the security and the feeling of safety to all concerned."

But Mr. Peres termed as "speculation" Israeli media reports that the United States wants further steps taken to rein in Jewish settlers.

The Feb. 25 massacre in the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron was carried out by a Jewish settler, Baruch Goldstein, who was beaten to death by survivors.

Israel Radio said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher reportedly told PLO envoy Nabil Shaath in meetings earlier this week that Israel has been asked to detain dozens of extremist settlers and take away their automatic weapons.

The Hebrew daily Haaretz carried a similar report and said the United States also wanted a large number of extremists among the 180,000 settlers banished from the occupied territories.

Following a cabinet decision last Sunday, the Israeli army has ordered the detention of six extremist settlers and the disarming of 18 others.

An unspecified number of settlers have been banned from entering Hebron, and the government is considering whether to outlaw the extremist Kach Movement.

Goldstein was a disciple of Kach's founder, the late Rabbi Meir Kahane.

Mr. Husseini, the top representative of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat in the occupied territories, said Israeli measures to date did not satisfy Palestinian demands.

The PLO wants all settlers disarmed, Jewish enclaves removed from the centre of Hebron and Nablus, an international force to protect Palestinians in the territories and the future of the 144 settlements put on the negotiating agenda now.

Asked when the Palestinians would return to talks with Israel, Mr. Husseini said: "The moment that the Israelis will give positive answers."

He added: "We haven't given up on the peace. But I don't know if I can still be optimistic about this peace process. I'm afraid that this peace process is dying."

Hamas rejects Arafat appeal as theatrics, presses call for jihad

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, on Friday described as hollow a call by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to join hands in his campaign to negotiate the status of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories with Israel and ensure the protection of the Palestinians living there.

"Arafat's call is simple theatrics with no substance," said Ibrahim Ghosheh, the Amman-based spokesman for Hamas. "He is trying to circumvent Hamas' demand for shelving the so-called peace talks with Israel," Mr. Ghosheh told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Ghosheh was referring to a Feb. 28 letter from Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), to Musa Abu Marzouk, head of the political department of Hamas.

The PLO leader's letter, which came in response to a Hamas message calling on him to abandon the peace talks in the wake of the Feb. 25 massacre of Muslim worshippers by one or more Jewish settlers at a Hebron mosque, "did not touch the essence of Hamas' position," Mr. Ghoshe said.

Furthermore, by sending an envoy to Washington in response to a call by U.S. President Bill Clinton on Arabs and Israelis to resume the peace talks, Mr. Arafat "has reaffirmed that he has no intention of moving from the course of surrender he has adopted," Mr. Ghoshe said.

In a Feb. 28 open appeal to the rank of file of Fateh, the mainstream PLO group founded by Mr. Arafat, Hamas said: "We appeal to our brothers in Fateh to join hands and escalate the intifada and holy war against the enemy."

"The (Hebron massacre) in which hundreds of our people died confirms the righteousness of resistance and armed struggle, and exposes the Zionists' claims that they wish to coexist in peace with our people," it said.

In his message to Hamas, Mr. Arafat said: "It is the hour of unity and solidarity and uniting ranks and not differences and divisions."

"This unity is most needed when we are fighting one of our fiercest battles to find a radical and comprehensive solution to the settlements and the disarming of settlers and securing international protection for our people," he wrote.

According to Mr. Ghoshe, "this is not a language of reconciliation as we had proposed. We wanted Arafat to abandon the negotiations with Israel and return to armed struggle to liberate our lands."

Mr. Ghoshe said Mr. Arafat "is ignoring the streets of Amman, Damascus, Cairo and the occupied territories which have erupted in protest against negotiations with Israel."

"Arafat no longer represents the Palestinian people," he added.

Hamas, which is locked in a running battle with Mr. Arafat's Fateh for leadership of the Palestinians living in the occupied territories, rules out any dealings with Israel and propagates Jihad (holy war) as the means to achieve liberation.

The group has vowed to step up armed attacks against Israelis and, in a Feb. 25 statement, singled out settlers as potential targets for revenge attacks following the Hebron massacre.

"We will not let up our resistance against Israel until the lands are totally liberated," Mr. Ghoshe vowed Friday.

He said a group of 10 Palestinian groups in an alliance based in Damascus would meet after the 'Eid Al Fitr "to concentrate on our further course of action" to undermine the peace process.

The coalition, known as the Alliance of Palestinian Forces, "was preoccupied with internal affairs so far," Mr. Ghoshe said. "Now we can turn our full attention to activities in the occupied territories."

He was referriog to the formation of a leadership council for the alliance. After several months of deliberations, the council was formed in January, with each of the 10 factions nominating two members each to the body. All secretary generals of the groups plus members are now members of the council. The only exception is the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), whose secretary-general, George Habash, did not join the council because of ill-health and nominated his deputy.

Ibrahim Ghosheh

For the first time after the Sept. 13 Israeli-PLO accord was signed, Hamas has threatened Palestinians from the occupied territories who are members of the delegation negotiating peace with Israel.

"We demand that the Oslo team announce their immediate withdrawal from the negotiations with Israel," the group said in an open letter addressed to the Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The reference to Oslo was to the site where Israeli and PLO negotiators worked out in secret the autonomy accord which was formally signed in Washington in September.

"We will not allow a handful of us (Palestinians) to continue negotiations witb those murderers at the expenses of the Palestinian people."

Israeli officials threaten to act against Orient House

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli officials said Friday the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters in Jerusalem has been served notice that it owes nearly $300,000 in back taxes, which the right-wing mayor vowed to collect.

The PLO centre, known as Orient House, is where Palestinians meet to coordinate their strategy on peace talks and where visiting foreign dignitaries are received.

It also serves as a defacto city hall for Palestinians, who make up 150,000 of the city's population of 564,000.

"The municipality of Jerusalem turned to them to pay all their debts as they turn to all those who have unpaid bills, and there are many who are in arrears. We understand the Orient House will pay," said Tirza Frenkel, spokeswoman for the municipality.

PLO officials were not available for comment. But the PLO's top official, Faisal Husseini, warned against any tax raid by police, saying the building contained sensitive documents related to peace negodations.

Shmuel Meir, the deputy mayor in charge of finances, said the Orient House owes 879,558.32 Israeli shekels in back property taxes and water bills.

"This is part of an overall operation to get back taxes," Mr. Meir said, adding the city was owed about 200 million shekels ($67 million).

Mr. Meir belongs to the National Religious Party, wbich opposes the PLO-Israel peace accord.

The Israeli mayor of Jerusalem, Ehud Olmert, a senior figure in the Likud party wbo unseated Teddy Kollek last year, vowed in an interview with wire services last mooth to force the Orient House to pay back taxes.

"Why sbould they be exempted?" Mr. Olmert said. "If anyone on the east side of Jerusalem doesn't pay, we will find a way to enforce it."

Mr. Olmert would not say if he would seek a court order or ask police to act on the tax matter.

U.S. says Syria protecting its Jews against threats

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Syrian government is taking unspecified action to protect the country's dwindling Jewish community against a death threat, the State Department said Thursday.

The threat that Jewish blood would be spilled at the end of Ramadan was continued in a pamphlet two American Jewish groups brought to the department's attention.

Department officials checked with the U.S. embassy in Damascus and were informed Syrian authorities were aware of the threat and "had taken actions to protect Jewish residents," the department said in an announcement.

Officials said the first report from the embassy did not explain what the government was doing in behalf of its Jewish citizens.

The Council for the Rescue of Syrian Jews and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organisations said the pamphlets were distributed by the Syrian Muslimi Party of Justice.

State Department officials said they were not aware of such an organisation.

There are about 1,000 Jews in Syria. Most have requested and received exit permits from the government. President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher had interceded in their behalf with President Hafez Al Assad and Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa in December and January.

According to the Jewish organisations, the letter described the Jews as criminals and in an apparent reference to the attack by a Jewish extremist on a mosque in Hebron Feb. 25, called Jews cowards who "shoot bullets on the victims when they are praying."

Threatening revenge, the leaflet ended with the declaration that "the blood of all Jews living in Syria will be spilled starting on Sunday, the 13th of March 1994."

Seymour D. Reich of the conference of presidents said "we expect that our government, which has been very helpful in the past in interceding for Syrian Jews, will move very swiftly to demand that President Assad of Syria take immediate steps to prevent the threatened bloody onslaught."

Jordanian suspect in New York attack described as hardworking businessman

By Jamal Halaby
The Associated Press

ZARQA — The family of Bassam Reyati, one of two Jordanians arrested after the attack on a van full of Hasidic Jews in New York, describe him as "a diligent kid" who is more interested in business than politics or religion.

"He is a sweet boy wbo always liked to help people and never encouraged violence or hatred against anybody," Mr. Reyati's 55-year-old father, Moussa, said Thursday.

Bassam Reyati, 27, and another Jordanian identified as Hlai Mohammad, 32, were arrested Wednesday and charged with weapons possession and hindering prosecution in Tuesday's shooting on the Brooklyn Bridge. The attack left a Jewish teenager brain-dead and wounded three other members of the Hasidic sect.

Rashad Baz, a 28-year-old Lebanese who worked for Mr. Reyati's car service, was charged with the actual shooting and held without bail.

Moussa Reyati was on the verge of tears, shaking his head in disbelief after learning of his son's arrest.

"I raised this boy, and I know he is not militant," the father said, looking tired from the sunrise-to-sunset fasting during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. "He was always interested in making something of himself in life."

Bassam's cousion, Salah Kurdi, concurred.

"I have been in constant touch with Bassam ever since he arrived in the United States eight years ago," said Mr. Kurdi, 33, a U.S. resident who is visitiog Jordan.

"He worked for me for six months in 1987, and he was an example of a diligent kid who wanted to succeed and make money," said Mr. Kurdi, who owns a contracting firm in Chicago.

Mr. Kurdi said be never considered Bassam a devout Muslim.

"He used to pray once in a blue moon," Mr. Kurdi said. "He's just the kind of a man wbo is interested in marking more money, better business and better life. He never discussed any politics with me," Mr. Kurdi said.

Bassam's brother, Mohammad, 26, said Bassam entered the United States on a tourist visa in 1986 and later changed it to a student visa. He said Bassam entered an aviation school in Texas but could not finish his course because of financial problems.

Mr. Kurdi said Bassam "relied on himself and worked hard until be made some money and bought a car company, the Pioneer Car Service, in Brooklyn."

Moussa Reyati, a retired army officer who runs a garment shop in Zarqa, said be last beard from bis son two weeks ago.

"He called to inform us to expect him for next week's Eid Al Fitr," the Muslim feast marking the end of Ramadan, the father said.

Bassam's mother listened at the kitchen door as her husband spoke to a reporter at their hilltop bome in a relatively affluent neighbourhood.

The family was unaware of Bassam Reyati's arrest until an Associated Press reporter located them in Zarqa, a mining city 27 kilometres northeast of Amman.

But the details of the Zarqa family and the Pioneer Car Service Bassam Reyati operated in Brooklyn mesbed with reports from New York.

Bassam is the eldest of seven children of the Reyati family, originally from Aqaba on Jordan's Red Sea coast.

A cousin, Badr Reyati, is a member of Jordan's Parliament from Aqaba.

The legislator said be did not know anything about Bassam Reyati.

The Reyati family was traced by telepboning every Reyati listed in the Jordanian telephone book, but inquiries prodoced no clues to the background of Hlai Mohammad, the other Jordanian arrested in the Brooklyn shooting.

A New York police spokesman, John Miller, said Mr. Reyati and Mr. Mohammad were believed to have helped the lone gunman dispose of the weapons and car used in the attack on the Hasidic Jews.

In Mr. Reyati's Brooklyn apartment, detectives found a bulletproof vest and a cache of weapons, including those used in the attack, New York police said.

The car used by the gunman was found near a Brooklyn car repair shop owned by Mr. Mohammad, his brother Baker Mohammad said in New York.

Clinton optimistic Mideast peace talks will resume

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Halting the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks would reward the "madman" ho gunned down more than 50 worshippers in a mosque in Hebron, President Clinton said Thursday.

Expressing optimism that the talks will resume despite the enormous political pressures on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and especially on Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, Mr. Clinton said "the surest way to band a victory to the madman who killed all the Palestinians in the mosque" is to fail to resume the talks scheduled to take place in Washington this week.

White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers said Arafat is sending Nabil Shaath to Washington to discuss timing for resumption of the discussions on implementing the declaration of principles signed by Israel and the PLO last year at the White House.

After the Israeli gunman fired into Muslim services at the mosque, Mr. Clinton summoned negotiators from both sides to Washington, urging them to keep talking until implemeotation was agreed upon, but the ensuing unrest has delayed the discussions, which had beeo scheduled to begin March 2.

At issue is the transfer of authority from Israeli occupation forces in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho to Palestinian civil rule. Among the issues outstanding after several rounds of talks in Egypt, according to U.S. officials, are the economic relationship between Israel and the new entity, the role of Palestinian police, and control of entry points.

Mr. Clinton told questioners that allowing the talks to founder would hand a victory to extremists in Israel and among Palestinians. "I think we can get them back on track," Mr. Clinton said of the discussions. "If the peace talks don't get back on track, then we are rewarding the damage and the death wreaked by the extremists. We don't want to do that."

The president said Mr. Rabin has made "a good beginning" for resumption of the talks. He said he understands the "very deep and prfound" ethnic and religious difficulties which fuel continuation of conflict in the Mideast and elsewhere, but he cited the March 1 federation agreement among Croatia, the Bosnian government and the Bosnian Croats as an example of what can be done when "we just keep working at these things and do our best to try to bring them to a successful conclusion."

Mr. Clinton bas called Rabin, King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to discuss methods of keeping the peace process viable. Myers said the president, in each of the telephone calls, "is asking everybody to keep working toward peace, to participate in the process."

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, asked at a Senate hearing Wednesday about the Israeli government's reaction to the Hebron killing, said the United States hopes and expects that Israel will move aggressively to implement the steps outlined by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Mr. Cbristopber said he talked with Rabin March 1, and "I have absolute confidence that he will carry out the commitments that he has made."

Mr. Rabin has "never even come close to violating a commitment that he made to me or an understanding that we bave, so I look to him to be as resolute about carrying out those commitments as be has been in the past," the secretary stressed.

Mr. Christopber said be hopes the "terrible incident" at Hebron will have a catalyzing effect on the Israeli-PLO peace process and cause the parties, finally to address the underlying problems and to implement the declaration of principles.

he stressed that any pause in the peace effort is to the benefit of the extremists. "They are able to exploit delay, pointing out to the people on the ground that the present circumstances are not causing any progress, and thus urging people there to turn to more extreme measures," the secretary said.

"I do hope that after a short period of time... in which there is a cooling of tempers, that the parties will get back to the table and promptly finish the implementation agreement," he said.

Later in the day Mr. Christopher told reporters that he would be meeting today with Dr. Shaath, the special envoy of Mr. Arafat. "We'll be discussing ways that the parties can resume the negotiations," be said.

The secretary noted that the Palestinians need a greater sense of security than they presently have, and "I'm sure we'll be discussing ways to do that. I'm glad that be's coming at this time so we'll have an opportunity to explore the matters that you can only do face-to-face."

Mr. Christopher said be expects to be in touch with Mr. Arafat before leaving Washington Friday on an Asian trip.

Ghali: U.N. observers could calm West Bank

UNITED NATION (USIA) — Secretary General Boutros Ghali has said that even some type of U.N. civilian observers in the occupied territories belp ease tensions.

Speaking with journalists after a Security Council debate on the Hebron massacre, the secretary general said that the idea of international observers came from "a long conversation I had with the prime minister of Israel."

He said he believes a United Nations presence "may belp to defuse the tension. We have done this in South Africa and botb Nelson Mandela and President F.W. de Klerk recognised that the presence of the United Nations — which was very symbolie — bad belped to defuse the tension."

The secretary general stressed that any U.N. force can only be done with the agreement of the Israelis as well as the Palestinians, that be cannot impose observers without the agreement of the two parties.

Dr. Ghali said be made it "quite clear" in a letter sent to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin after the Hebron massacre last week "that if be agrees, we are ready to send a group of — I even used the word 'a presence' — which could be a group of civilians."

"In South Africa, the people that were there were civilian and had no relation with the United Nations forces or even military observers," be said.

The Security Council is still working on a draft resolution, one element of which could authorize observers.

Visitors throng for view of royal mummies

CAIRO (AP) — A select group of Egypt's royal mummies made a tumultuous return to public life Tuesday in the Egyptian museum's refurbished mummy room.

Officials hope the crowd-pleasing kings and queens, hidden away for 14 years, once again will beckon visitors to Egypt and ally damage to the tourist industry wrought by anti-government violence of Muslim extremists.

Tourism, formerly the country's top money earner, is off at least 70 per cent.

If their debut is any indication, the mummies' will be powerful tourists incentives. Flocks of visitors led by Atef Sedki, Egypt's prime minister, poured into the room ironically designed to mimic the eerie silence of a tomb.

Across the hallway, the usually jammed exhibits of Pharaoh Tutankhamun's treasures were all but deserted.

The mummies' overwhelming reception overwhelmed the museum's mummy expert, Nasry Iskander, attempting to bring sanity to the throngs. "I'm worried about the mummies' safety," he said.

But the pushing and shoving did little to dampen the enthusiasm of the tourists.

"Awesome," was the reaction of Australia's Bryan Barnes, one of the first visitors inside the mummy room. He and his wife Pat had arrived in Egypt only two days earlier from Melbourne.

Eleven royal mummies are on display, including the father and son team Seti I and Ramses II — the first step in what could be the whole royal mummy parade of 33 kings, queens, princes, prophets and 10 mummies of lesser rank.

Mr. Iskander, who has worked with the long-dead royalty for decades, ranks the mummies with the Sphiny as unique Egyptian treasures.

"The mummies are a dream," Mr. Iskander said. "Imagine how wonderful it is for history to have famous personalities right before you. When you look at the mummies, you get a feeling you know the person. It's something unbelievable."

Though the Egyptian museum has mummies galore, it's the royal collection that attracts the masses. First displayed in 1958, the royals ranked among Egypt's top tourist attractions.

But in 1980 the mummies disappeared after President Anwar Sadat made an offhand remark that exhibiting such important historic figures offended him.

Ever since, museum officials sought ways to exhibit the mummies with dignity while allowing public access.

"For most people the mummies aren't distasteful or just dead bodies," said James Harris of the University of Michigan, who has used X-rays to search for royal mummy secrets since 1967.

They're a "distinguished population indeed," he said.

Decked out in individually designed showcases, wrapped in simple tan shrouds, only their necks, heads and arms accentuated by subtle lighting, the royal mummies bear no relation to the hideous, fully exposed specimens Sadat saw.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30	Les Adventurers De L'Espace
17:41	L'Ecole Des Fans
18:30	Beaumanou
19:00	News in French
19:15	Ushuaia
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
21:30	Family Matters
22:00	News in English
22:15	Local Programme
22:50	Feature Film "A Thousand Heroes"

PRAYER TIMES

04:41	Fajr
05:55	(Sunrise) Duha
11:48	Dhuhr
15:04	Asr
15.37	Maghreb
18:54	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel 661757

Terrasancta Church Tel 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church Tel. 652526.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel 624328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932

Church of Nazarene Tel.675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Warm weather conditions will prevail with winds becoming southwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

	Min./Max. temp.
Amman	7 / 21
Aqaba	13 / 26
Deserts	5 / 23
Jordan Valley	11 / 24

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 21, Aqaba 20. Humidity readings: Amman 26 per cent, Aqaba 26 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr Mukhles Mazahra	820425
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim	831039
Dr. Mohammad Al Izza	752971
Dr. Shtaiwi Abu Zayed	737962
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asema pharmacy	637055
Nairoukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660
Najib pharmacy	847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Qanu	1—)
Al Quds Pharmacy	1—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Yousef Abu Sa'd	989000
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381

RJ Flight information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn	644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/26
Army, Marka	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital	(09) 990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital	(02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:30	Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)
09:25	New Delhi (RJ)
09:25	Aqaba (RJ)
09:30	Dhahran (RJ)
09:50	Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
10:00	Beirut (RJ)
10:20	Colombo (RJ)
15:45	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
16:55	Cairo (RJ)
17:55	London, Berlin (RJ)
18:10	Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20	Vienna (OA)
10:30	Sanaa (IY)
17:35	Rome (AZ)
18:45	Dubai (EM)
22:10	Paris, Damascus (AF)
23:15	Amsterdam (KL)
23:35	Cairo (MS)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00	Beirut (RJ)
07:00	Aqaba (RJ)
11:30	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:35	Paris, Brussel (RJ)
11:45	Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:05	London (RJ)
12:45	Cairo (RJ)
20:00	Larnaca (RJ)
20:15	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:30	Jeddah (RJ)
20:45	Damascus (RJ)
21:00	Jeddah (add) (RJ)
21:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:15	Beirut (RJ)
11:30	Sanaa (IY)
11:40	Larnaca (CY)
13:50	Vienna (OA)
18:35	Rome (AZ)
19:45	Dubai (EM)
23:55	Damascus, Paris (AF)
00:15	Amsterdam (KL)
00:30	Cairo (MS)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman	8:00 a.m.	every Monday
Arr. Damascus	5:00 p.m.	every Monday
Dep. Damascus	7:30 a.m.	every Sunday
Arr. Amman	5:00 p.m.	every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	550/ 650
Banana	680
Banana (Mukammar)	620
Cabbage	70 / 40
Carrot	200/120
Cauliflower	160/ 100
Clementine	260 / 200
Cucumbers (large)	140 / 80
Cucumbers (small)	250 / 200
Eggplant	2500 / 80
Garlic	900/800
Grape Fruit	220/120
Green beans	1000/ 600
Lemon	180 / 100
Marrow (large)	140 / 80
Marrow (small)	300 / 200
Olives (green)	700/500
Orange	470/ 120
Onion (dry)	350 / 300
Onion (green)	240 / 180
Pepper (hot)	400 / 240
Pepper (sweet)	400 / 240
Potato	240/ 170
Radish	150/ 100
Tomato	210 / 130
Spinach	140 / 80
String beans	1100/ 700

FRIDAY PRAYERS: **His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan perform Friday prayers at Al Tabba Mosque. Friday's sermon was delivered by the Armed Forces mufti. The mufti said the fasting month of Ramadan is a symbol of the unity of the nation and he called on Muslims to observe the teachings of Islam. Also attending the prayer were Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the King's military secretary, and Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, as well as Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the prime minister, speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, the Chief Chamberlain and senior civil and military officials.**

Heavy rains expected — Abanda

AMMAN (Petra) — An atmospheric depression over Jordan and the eastern Mediterranean region is expected to bring heavy rains and a drop in temperature starting Sunday, according to Ali Abanda, director of the Department of Meteorology.

The depression, centred over the Black Sea, was moving steadily towards the eastern Mediterranean accompanied by a cold front which will cause high winds and rain, said Dr. Abanda.

Rainfall last month reached 70 per cent of the annual average in some regions of the Kingdom, said Dr. Abanda, adding that a few governorates in the south registered above average rates. The rainfall in the northern regions as well as in Amman, Mafraq and Zarqa governorates was below the annual average, Dr. Abanda said. He said that thus far this winter most of the rain fell in the Karak, Tafileh and Ma'an governorates.

Al Rabbeb town near Karak received the highest cumulative amount of rainfall with 321.3 millimetres, accounting for 127 per cent of the total annual average up to March 1, 1994.

The lowest cumulative amount, he said, fell in Jafr which so far received 82.7 millimetres this winter.

Visiting Greek minister warns that peace talks are vulnerable to collapse

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Greek Foreign Minister Karolous Papoulias, on a Middle East tour representing the European Union (EU), warned that Jewish and Islamist extremists are on the rise and urged support for the Israeli government and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

In a meeting with Jordanian officials the top Greek diplomat, who left Amman to Israel at the end of his two-day visit here Thursday evening, warned that the two sides are in vulnerable positions following the massacre of Palestinian worshippers by a Jewish settler in Hebron. He said the situation could lead to the collapse of the Middle East peace process.

"The Minister said that there was no escape from saving Mr. Arafat politically," Foreign Ministry Secretary General Nayef Hadid told the Jordan Times in an interview.

"He also underlined that vulnerability of the Labour government in Israel and said that if we do not cooperate, it will weaken and maybe collapse," Mr. Hadid said.

"He said he believed that the Hebron massacre was a gift from the skies to fundamentalists," Mr. Hadid quoted Mr. Papoulias as saying.

According to the senior official, Mr. Papoulias had said during his meetings here Thursday that the EU would like to see Middle East peace negotiations continue and lead to a "state in the occupied West Bank."

The Greek official met with His Majesty King Hussein, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan as well as several top politicians including Lower House of Parliament Speaker Taher Al Masri.

Mr. Papoulias also told officials that the European Union of nations would also want to see "the disarming of Jewish settlers."

Mr. Hadid, said that Mr. Papoulias had told Jordanian officials that EU member countries "were worried" by the Hebron massacre and believe that the Middle East area is passing through "difficult times."

Mr. Papoulias, who arrived in Amman late Wednesday from Tunis, told reporters that the EU supported PLO calls for protection of Palestinians in the occupied territories and disarming of Jewish settlers.

"International presence is a basic condition and disarming the Jewish settlers is another condition," the official news agency (Petra) quoted the Greek diplomat as saying.

"The minister said that all effort has to be extended to finding a solution because there is no other option," Mr. Hadid quoted Mr. Papoulias as saying.

According to Petra, Mr. Papoulias delivered to King Hussein written messages from the EU and Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreous. He also carried a verbal message from Greece's President Constantine Kramanlis.

According to sources, Mr. Papoulias underlined the importance of the democratic process in the Kingdom and expressed concern that economic conditions have to improve in order to consolidate democracy.

"He said he believed that the embargo should be lifted on the Red Sea port of Aqaba," as a condition to improving the economic situation in the Kingdom, one of the sources told the Jordan Times.

Special interest panel organises measures to protest sales tax

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A special committee lobbying against the proposed sales tax draft law has brought together eight political parties, various professional unions and thousands of citizens in a campaign to pressure deputies into rejecting the controversial legislation.

The committee has already started measures of protest against the draft legislation, including organising a sit-in in front of Parliament when deputies debate the draft law, according to Deputy Khalil Haddadin, the committee spokesman.

"We are organising a mass protest outside Parliament on the day the draft law is to be debated," Mr. Haddadin told the Jordan Times Thursday.

He said parties involved in the campaign have been active in raising public awareness about the importance of the issue and are collecting signatures to a petition demanding that the new tax be rejected.

According to the committee, the proposed tax law does not serve the interest of the country or its citizens and threatens Jordan's national industries.

The committee calls for encouraging investment in new local industries, which would contribute to reducing unemployment. If the proposed draft law is endorsed, said Mr. Haddadin, such industries would be negatively affected.

He added that the committee, like the government, would like to see a reduction in the budget deficit. But he said that could only be achieved by minimising government expenditure and maximising income through increasing customs on imported luxury items used by a limited sector of society which can afford such items. "This gives more room for local industry to prosper," added the deputy.

President of the Finance Committee at the Lower House of Parliament Ali Abul Ragheb said Friday that many sectors of society have "major reservations" about the proposed tax.

Mr. Abul Ragheb said that the finance committee has held extensive meetings with different political and popular groups, Chamber of Commerce officials, professional unions and the Consumer Protection Society to hear out their views on the draft law, which the House referred to the committee on Feb. 16.

He told the Jordan Times that the committee will make "major modifications" to the law before it sends it back to the House with its recommendations. Mr. Abul Ragheb said the committee will take into consideration "the requirements" of the government as well as economic sector.

"The committee will come up with moderate and acceptable (recommendations)" to all sectors of society, said Mr. Abul Ragheb who expected the draft legislation to be sent back to the House early this week.

Mr. Haddadin expressed faith in the deputies' "ability to recognise what serves the interest of Jordan and its citizens."

Many observers believe that the House will introduce minor amendments to the draft law before eventually approving it despite the strong opposition that Islamist and leftist deputies are expected to raise.

The draft legislation, which is a requirement of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)-orchestrated social and economic reform programme would replace the Consumption Tax which Deputy Abdul Karim Kabariti called "a sword in the hands of the government."

The Consumption Tax was introduced in 1992, but the government argues many negative aspects appeared when it was implemented. It said the new tax would remove those "negative elements."

Minister of Finance Sami Gammoh presented the draft law to the House on Feb. 16 as an "important part of the economic reform programme" which, he said, would enable the country "to receive foreign aid, maintain the stability of the dinar and build the Kingdom's foreign currency reserves."

But the government's justification did little to ease the opposition of Islamic Action Front (IAF) and other deputies who said the draft law would increase the tax burden and raise the cost of living for limited income people.

Customs legislation amendments to simplify procedures

By Ziad Al Shilleh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Legislation Bureau at the Prime Ministry is currently discussing amendments to the 1983 Provisional Customs Law No. 16 which are aimed at facilitating and simplifying customs procedures in line with related laws and the latest economic developments in Jordan and the region, according to Director General of the Customs Department Mohammad Al Jamal.

In an interview with Al Ra'i Arabic daily and the Jordan Times, Mr. Jamal said the proposed amendments seek to distinguish between customs and smuggling violations and to correct some outdated provisions.

Under the amendments, fines for violations of customs laws will be reduced from 200 per cent and 300 per cent of the customs duties to 25 per cent or 100 per cent of the fees. Fines for inaccuracies in export statements will be reduced from 100 per cent and 400 per cent to a minimum of 100 per cent and a maximum 200 per cent of the customs fees.

On goods used for purposes other than those for which they were imported, fines will be reduced to no less than 25 per cent and no more than 100 per cent of the customs duties payable. Fines on sales of goods for which duties were not paid, pending the settlement of their status, or exchanging or disposing of them illegally will be reduced to a minimum of 100 per cent and a maximum of 200 per cent.

Delay fines will be increased to speed up customs clearance.

Fines on temporary admission will be reduced and fines for inaccuracies in the manifests will be reduced to a minimum of 10 per cent and a maximum of 100 per cent of the duties, down from 100 to 300 per cent of the value of goods and duties together.

The fine on imports exempt from customs or subject to reduced tariffs, which are used for purposes other than those for which they were imported, will be decreased from 100-400 per cent to 25 per cent of the fees.

Fines on smuggled goods will be increased from 300 per cent to 600 per cent of the fees.

Vehicles used to transport smuggled goods will be fined no more than 50 per cent of the value of the smuggled items, provided that such fines does not exceed the value of the vehicle itself.

The amendments authorise the director general of the Customs Department or his designate to dismiss smuggling cases not exceeding JD 250. The amendments also delegates some of the powers of the Minister of Finance to the director general of customs

Massacre victim recovering in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas Friday visited Mohammad Yosef Abul Halawa, one of the Palestinians who were wounded when Israeli settlers opened fire on Palestinian worshippers at Ibrahimi Mosque, last Friday, killing more than 60 persons and injuring about 300. Dr. Malhas said that Mr. Abul Halawa was admitted to Al Hussein Medical Centre after a Cabinet decision to allow all those who were injured in the Hebron massacre to be treated at Jordanian hospitals at the expense of the Ministry of Health. Al Hussein Medical Centre Director Adel Shreideh said Mr. Abul Halawa was in stable condition, although the injury to his lower limbs and upper left arm were serious.

Mr. Abul Halawa described the massacre at the mosque as shocking and blamed the slaughter on Israeli soldiers. He said before the massacre he noticed that for the first time the number of Isreali soldiers at the entrances to the mosque were not large.

"At the inspection point at the Mosque, Muslim worshipers were not searched which made the numbers increase, because when they see Israeli soldiers moving around the mosque, they head to other mosques," he said. "What happened that morning was incredible... I heard a barrage of fire.... and I was the first to be shot... I felt my back bleeding then I passed out," Mr. Abul Halawa said.

Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas (third from right) Friday visits Hebron massacre victim Mohammad Yousef Abul Halawa (Petra photo)

Merchants complain draft tenancy law is unfair

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Several downtown Amman merchants have expressed "disappointment" with the Lower House of Parliament for approving Article 9 of the tenancy draft law, which they charged was "unfair" to tenants.

The article stipulates that landlords are allowed to evict tenants to expand their rented properties only if the building is 40 years old and if 12 years have elapsed since the signing of the lease. The article entitles tenants to a compensation 10 times the annual rent if evicted, and gives them the right to return to the property after the expansion is completed. It says merchants should also be compensated if the expansion work is not completed within three years.

The merchants, who claimed they represent hundreds of downtown traders, said that the article gives landlords the right to evict tenants whenever they wished since most downtown buildings are over 40 years old. They added that the draft legislation does not differentiate between commercial and residential properties, and merchants could incur tremendous losses if Article 9 is applied.

"It takes years for merchants to build a good reputation and establish business relations, all of which can be shattered if property owners decide to kick tenants out," one of the merchants told the Jordan Times.

The traders said that all their appeals to deputies have been neglected although copies of a petition signed by hundreds of their colleagues have been sent to all lawmakers and members of the Upper House of Parliament.

The merchants added that not only business owners could be harmed by this article of the draft law, but other citizens as well because it would result in unemployment for many who work for them.

They said the compensation for which tenants are entitled would not make up for the loss of business clients and credibility, pointing to key money that they would have to pay in order to rent new properties in commercial areas.

The choice of returning to the property after three years of eviction or receiving compensation is tricky and benefits only the landlords whose new lease rates would probably be ten times higher than the previous ones, said the merchants in an interview with the Jordan Times.

The traders said the same article of the draft legislation gives property owners the green light to demolish buildings that "our great grandfathers built and which constitute a very important part of our heritage."

The House, which approved 10 articles of the draft law after heated debates that extended over three sessions, is expected to endorse the 20-article draft legislation Sunday.

ILO officials leave for Syria

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-member fact-finding team of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Friday left for Syria on the next leg of a tour in the Arab region to discuss Palestinian workers' conditions under Israeli occupation.

ILO Deputy Director for Arab Affairs Shukri Dajani, who led the team, met here with Labour Minister Khaled Ghazawi and other officials to discuss the workers' issues as well as ILO-Jordanian relations.

Before leaving for Damascus, Mr. Dajani announced that the ILO plans to offer assistance to workers' unions as well as workers in the occupied Arab lands.

Last December, the ILO decided to allocate a grant of $250,000 to support the workers' activities; the ILO director has now proposed the allocation of $1 million in further aid to the occupied Arab lands.

33 Iranian envoys have left Jordan, official says

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A total of 33 Iranian diplomats have slipped out of the country quietly in compliance with a Jordanian request that Tehran reduce its diplomatic representation here to a number compatible with Amman's presence in the Iranian capital.

As part of the agreement between Amman and Tehran, the last of the 33 diplomats left at the end of February and the previously bustling embassy, according to the secretary general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has been reduced to four diplomats, including the ambassador, four administrators, a driver and cook.

Nayef Hadid told the Jordan Times that the Kingdom believed it was necessary to request the reduction because the number of Iranian diplomats in Jordan was not compatible with Amman's two diplomats in Tehran.

In the first on-the-record confirmation of the Jordanian request, Mr. Hadid said that he first approached the Iranian ambassador here about reducing his diplomatic staff in November last year.

"Ten days later, Iranian guards shot at our embassy in Tehran injuring a security man," Mr. Hadid said. The shooting incident was not reported in Jordan.

Officials, however, had said that Jordanian ambassador to Iran Yassin Istanbouli was attacked at his home in Tehran and his assailants searched his house and stole some of its contents in August of that year.

It was Tehran's refusal to apologise officially over the mistreatment of the Jordanian ambassador that initially made the Jordanian government ask for the reduction.

Sources had said that Mr. Istanbouli was tied up for several hours while his assailants searched his house and stole some of its contents.

Jordanian officials at the time expressed their suspicion that the assailants of Mr. Istanbouli belonged to one of the security wings in Iran and demanded that the Iranian government investigate the case.

The government here, according to the sources, also demanded an "official apology" from Tehran but only received a message that the Iranian government was "sorry" that the attack had taken place.

Privately, officials say that the Kingdom was becoming concerned over increased activities by Iranian diplomats to infiltrate cultural and research centres in the Kingdom and distribute leaflets targetting Gulf regimes.

Officials contacted by the Jordan Times would not confirm these accusations but one source said that the embassy had been able to win support among private sector businessmen here and that these influential traders contacted the Foreign Ministry on behalf of the embassy when it first became known that they were being asked to reduce their staff.

Jordan and Iran restored diplomatic relations in 1990 after a decade of strained relations caused by Amman's support of Iraq in the 1980-88 war. Iran reopened its embassy in March 1991 and appointed the first ambassador in 13 years in October 1993.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ☆ **Art exhibition by artist Ghassan Ayasrah at the Royal Cultural Centre.**
- ☆ **Exhibition by artist Shaker Al Girmi entitled "Studies in the Jordanian Environment" at the Phoenix Art Gallery for Art and Culture.**
- ☆ **Plastic art exhibition by several artists at the Royal Cultural Centre.**
- ☆ **Exhibition of Jordanian products at the Royal Cultural Centre.**
- ☆ **Exhibition of works of art by the Arab Centre for Vocational Training at the Royal Cultural Centre.**
- ☆ **Art exhibition by artist Jalal Ariqat at Ab'ad Art Gallery (10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. except Fridays).**
- ☆ **Art exhibition by several artists at the Alia Art Gallery (8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.).**
- ☆ **Exhibition of medical herbs at the Royal Cultural Centre.**
- ☆ **Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre (7:00 p.m.-midnight).**
- ☆ **Art exhibition by Jordanian artists at the Royal Cultural Centre (7:00 p.m.-midnight).**
- ☆ **Wood carving exhibition by artist Samer Ousama at the French Cultural Centre.**
- ☆ **"Permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman (Tel. 643251/2).**
- ☆ **Art exhibition by several Iraqi and Jordanian artists at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).**

DRAMA

- ☆ **Drama entitled "A Mid-summer Night's Dream" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.**

LECTURE

- ☆ **Lecture in Arabic on the Islamic Movement by Mr. Ziyad Abu Ghanimeh at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundationin Jabal Amman at 8:00 p.m.**

Save water.... every drop counts!

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road. P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Parking in space

IT IS a common scene nowadays to see cars being not only double parked on our streets but also triple parked, or simply parked anywhere. Some worshippers on Fridays, for example, view their right and duty to pray as a licence to block traffic. In retrospect, the fault lies mainly with the construction of places of worship, be they mosques or churches, where no adequate parking facilities are provided in the first place. People are often forced to park illegally since there are no spaces available for legal parking. What exacerbates the problem is either the absence of traffic police on busy days of prayers to control the severe parking situation, or the policemen's reluctance to act against violators, which can be understood but not condoned. It would seem that the Traffic Department could do a lot more in areas where there are no built-in facilities for public parking.

At least double and triple parking could be prevented in areas where they occur with impunity.

That impeded traffic could wreak havoc in emergency cases is well-known to all sides. Imagine if fire breaks out in a giant mosque or church and Civil Defence teams find no easy access to the fire-stricken building. In such a worse-case-scenario, what might start out to be a controllable crisis could develop in a matter of seconds into a catastrophe engulfing a whole block of buildings and streets. Casualties could run into the hundreds, and panic could strike the capital like it did when the Safeway fire broke out.

One effective way to deal with this problem is to develop and enforce appropriate building codes according to which public places cannot be constructed without being supplied first with suitable parking facilities. Issuing licences for the construction of mosques and churches, not to mention other high-rise buildings, should be made contingent on the construction of basement parking areas big enough to cope with the potential parking problem. There is in fact legislation to this effect in the books, but it is not always enforced, and when it is, the end result is some ugly structures where cars are parked in ground-level floors rather than hidden underground. What is worse, in many cases, is that space allocated for parking in shopping centres being built around town is usually occupied by employees working at the centre itself. The public, or potential customers of banks and shops located in that centre, cannot use the parking space. They end up cruising the streets for long periods of time in search of a place in which they can leave their automobiles while attending their chores.

The intensifying problem of parking in the capital calls for a new approach encompassing zoning codes, licensing procedures and more effective traffic rules. Till that approach is formulated and adopted, driving and parking in Amman would continue to be a nightmare for most.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily said that the terrorist who killed the 63 worshippers at the Al Ibrahimi Mosque was encouraged to so by world community's passive attitude towards the atrocities committed against the Iraqi, the Somali and the Bosnian civilians. The paper said that with the killing of the Palestinians, the starvation of the Iraqis and the continued atrocities against the Muslims in Bosnia, the United States and its strategic ally, the Jewish state, are trying to peddle a sort of peace that can only serve their own interests and not world peace and security. By refusing to send peacekeeping troops to Palestine, the United Nations and the world community at large are opening the door for more massacres at the hand of the Israeli soldiers and settlers and, encouraging the Israeli leaders to remain adamant in their position at the peace negotiations, said the paper. The killing of the Palestinian worshippers and the continued atrocities against the Palestinian people are not the making of individual terrorists but rather a well orchestrated plot to annihilate the people of Palestine to ensure the perpetuation of Israeli occupation, added the daily. It said that the stationing of U.N. observers in the occupied territories can by no means provide protection to the defenceless Palestinian people.

THERE IS no doubt that Washington's invitation to the PLO and the Israeli government to resume talks in the United States was part of an American way of containing the Arab masses' anger at the barbaric crime committed by the Zionists at Al Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, said Sawt Al Shaab daily.

Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Mousa Keilani

Will Rabin take the bull by its horn and remove settlements?

THE FEB. 25 massacre of Palestinians by a Jewish settler or settlers in a mosque in the occupied West Bank has served as more than a simple reminder to the political leaders of Israel that there cannot be any lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict as long as Jewish settlements remain in the occupied territories. The killings underlined the fact that the West Bank and Gaza Strip will remain under perpetual tension and a fuseless timebomb ready to explode if settlers, armed to the teeth, are free to roam around and enforce their kind of law.

The presence of never-say-die extremist, radical, hardline settlers (or "ultranationalists" as some call them although Israeli "nationalism" has little to do with their choice to remain in subsidised housing units in the occupied lands) is not new. It has been a feature of the Palestinian land since 1967. They were very much there when the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel signed their groundbreaking autonomy accord on Sept. 13, 1993.

But the Hebron massacre underlined the ill-founded hopes that Palestinian autonomy could take hold under the present conditions and prove to be a success, paving the way for mutual Palestinian-Israeli confidence and setting the ground for "final status" negotiations to address the root causes of the conflict.

Beyond that, and more importantly, the Hebron slaughter has cut deep into Palestinian and Arab support for the process that was launched with the signing of the September accord and rendered the PLO unable to proceed in its autonomy negotiations with Israel.

By extension, the other Arab parties in the peace process cannot and will not move either as they indicated last week when they walked out of the Washington bilaterals. And hence the conclusion that no matter how anyone look at it, the peace process is indeed deadlocked. Any further move forward depends on a mutually acceptable arrangement vis-a-vis the settlers and settlements and iron-clad guarantees that the Palestinians in the occupied territories will not be exposed to Israeli terrorism, state-sponsored or otherwise.

That is the Arab and Palestinian side of the affair. Equally significant is the fact that the Hebron carnage has ironically offered Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres exactly the right card they were looking for in their search for a justifiable ground to press the case against the settlers.

Indeed, such a conclusion is based on an assumption that Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres are sincere and honest in their efforts to find an equitable, comprehensive, durable and just settlement to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. But in the absence of alternatives, the mainstream Arab thinking has no choice but to go along with the theory that public statements by Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres are politically laced, and that within themselves they are really interested in a just solution to the Palestinian problem.

No doubt, any Israeli politician, from any side of the political spectrum regardless of inclinations for a just peace, should know that the settlements always posed a major hurdle in any move towards settling the Palestinian problem. But the issue for those who wanted a just peace had always been how to go about addressing it without undermining their political fortunes.

But the Hebron massacre underlined the ill-founded hopes that Palestinian autonomy could take hold under the present conditions and prove to be a success, paving the way for mutual Palestinian-Israeli confidence and setting the ground for "final status" negotiations to address the root causes of the conflict.

Now Mr. Rabin and company have a strong card to press against Likudniks and other rightwingers for a crackdown on the settlers. What remains unclear is how they are going to handle the card.

For all purposes of public consumption, Mr. Rabin and likeminded Israeli leaders have ruled out any dismantling of the settlements or including the issue of settlements in the autonomy negotiations.

But, armed with the knowledge that any just peace now depends on the shape and nature of settlements in the occupied lands, they have a golden chance to really take the bull by its horns and prove it not only to the Arabs and Palestinians but also to the international community that they mean business.

Such an approach will serve several distinct purposes:

— Removing one of the major hurdles that have plagued any effort for a just and lasting peace in the region.

— Shoring up the waning support for the peace process among the Palestinians, whether in the occupied territories or outside;

— Settling the dilemma of the PLO leadership, which wants to press ahead with the peace process but is unable to do so because of Palestinian opposition getting increased momentum in the hardline campaign against the autonomy agreement; and

— Solving the problem of the other Arab parties, which, despite their commitment to a negotiated peace with Israel, are unable to move.

The Jordanian-initiated suspension of the latest round of bilateral talks is not a tactical move. The Kingdom feels as much pain and anguish over the Hebron massacre as anyone else, and any argument that its suspension of the talks with Israel came as an expression of solidarity with the PLO stand will only be half-truth. Of particular mention here is the fact that Jordan has been on the forefront of the Arabs for decades to repeatedly warn that Israeli settlements in the occupied territories pose a major problem in any effort for Arab-Israeli peace. The Kingdom's stand, in the days immediately prior to the startling disclosure of the secret Israel-PLO accord worked out in Oslo, was that the issue of settlements should be immediately negotiated as part of any substantial Arab-Israeli peace talks.

We hope Mr. Rabin and his Labour-led government, which has always been bogged down over its preoccupations with Israeli public opinion, would move swiftly to contain the threat that the Jewish settlers and their settlements pose to the peace process.

For once, a majority among the Israelis, as opinion polls indicate, feel that settlers are indeed a major hurdle towards achieving the tranquility and peace they all aspire for, and this gives relative freedom to the government to implement measures to contain the extremists. Any delay in adopting concrete action, much beyond the token disarming of some 100 or settlers which does not serve any real purpose, would only undermine Israeli public opinion and make it harder for any concerted measure to eliminate the first and foremost problem in moving towards a solution based on "land for peace."

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Mideast peace impossible if settlements are not removed

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

REACTIONS to the massacre of more than 60 worshippers at Al Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron dominated most of the editorials and commentaries in the past week. But a host of domestic issues were also discussed by the local media.

Tareq Masarweh, a columnist in Al Ra'i, reviewed the numerous massacres and the atrocities committed by the Israelis since 1948, noting in particular the Deir Yassin massacre in which whole families were slain. The writer said that the series of massacres were committed by Zionist groups under the nose of the United Nations and in defiance of world community. Nothing, he said, was done to put an end to them. He said that as the leaders of Israel are now peddling their own version of peace, they did not abandon their old plots to end the presence of Arabs and Muslims in the Palestinian lands.

The Palestinians can reply to the massacre by stepping up the intifada on the one hand and stopping their negotiations with the Israelis on the other, said Taher Adwan, a columnist in Al Dustour. The writer said that if there should be any negotiations, they must not focus on merely providing protection to the Palestinians or the withdrawal of Israelis from Jericho and Gaza. Rather they should aim at a lasting settlement ensuring the full withdrawal of Israeli forces from all the occupied Arab territories.

His views were echoed by Al Dustour columnist Saleh Al Qallab who said that the PLO should put an end to its negotiations with the Israelis and withdraw its recognition of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. The writer said that the Palestinians should unite their ranks and escalate their struggle for a complete withdrawal and a lasting peace. He further urged the Arab regimes to suspend their negotiations with the Israelis and be ready for a long war with the common enemy.

Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily daily, said that the Oslo deal should be amended to allow for an immediate discussion of Jewish settlers between the PLO and Israel. He said postponing the discussion of settlements until the end of the five-year autonomy rule is a mistake and the PLO should demand a final solution in this matter immediately.

Backing these views, Sultan Al Hattab said in Al Ra'i that there is no chance for the Palestinians to co-exist with the Jewish settlements during or after the end of the autonomy rule in Palestine.

Trevor © 1994 Albuquerque Journal. Reprinted with special permission of NAS, Inc.

The writer said that the Hebron massacre leaves no question about the expected confrontations between the Palestinians and the Jews in Palestine.

Fahd Al Fanek expressed the view that the Israeli armed forces were part of the plot in Al Ibrahimi Mosque since the crime bears the mark of the earlier massacres carried out by the terrorists led by Menachem Begin and others since 1948. The writer said that the shell that exploded in the middle of Sarajevo moved the NATO alliance to take action and protect he Bosnians, but the massacre in Hebron went unheeded by these world community. He urged the Arabs and Muslims of the world to reply to the massacre and end the presence of the Jewish settlers in Arab lands.

Calling for an end to the Israeli occupation of all Arab lands, Ibrahimi Al Absi said in Al Ra'i that only by terminating the occupation of Palestinian land can peace prevail and no more blood be shed. As long as there are Jewish settlers living amidst the Arabs, the door will be open for the Jews to kill more Arabs in cold blood since there is no one to stop them from committing such crimes, said the writer.

Ahmad Dabbas, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, said that the Arabs and Muslims did nothing vis-a-vis the massacre in Hebron except for voicing condemnations and crying over their dead. The writer said deploring the massacre and demonstrating in support of the Palestinians are not the right tools for backing the oppressed people. He called for practical steps at the government and the popular levels to help provide protection to the Palestinian people and to enhance their steadfastness.

Salameh Ekour, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, said that the PLO leadership has failed in its quest to end the occupation and so it has opened the door for the Israelis to pursue their atrocities and commit massacres. He said that the PLO should refer the efforts to end the occupation to Egypt and Jordan which he claimed, are better qualified to regain the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel continues to commit crimes against the Arabs in Palestine in the name of or under the cover of working for peace with the Arab states, said Munes Razzaz, a columnist in Al Dustour. He said that the massacre committed in Hebron was the latest link in a long series of crimes which prove beyond doubt that peace with Israel is animaginary thing that can never materialise.

A columnist in Al Dustour called on the concerned authorities in Jordan to take steps towards implementing a national strategy on combating drug addiction in the Kingdom. Mohammad Daoud said that despite police efforts and the measures to combat drug addiction and trafficking the number of dealers and addicts have been growing lately, especially among the youth. The writer said that the police are not enough to handle this grave issue and other concerned authorities, especially the Ministry of Education, are called on to give a hand to stem drug abuse from the country.

Unlike a practice in other capitals, garbage collectors in Amman embark on their work in the morning and likewise do the workers who are involved in digging roads to lay cables or to asphalt the streets, said Nazih Qousus in Sawt Al Shaab. The writer said that these activities are done in many other capitals during the night so that they would not impede traffic or obstruct other activities that require attention during the day. The writer said that the Greater Amman Municipality, which wants to avoid further traffic congestions in Amman, should give the idea of garbage collection at night some thought.

Fahd Al Fanek warned the public that failure to impose the sales tax would bring about serious consequences to the country's economy. He said that non-implementation of the sales tax draft law would mean that Jordan would not be allowed to reschedule its external debts or get new loans needed for socio-economic development. He said that the sales tax, which was agreed on with the International Monetary Fund, is part of an overall economic restructuring programme benefitting the economy and the Jordanian people in the long run. The writer said that the war waged by some people against the sales tax law is in fact directed against the country's economic and political future.

Critics give 'Slick Willie' a new label — he's Reaganesque'

THEY STILL call him "Slick Willie," and seldom miss an opportunity to criticise his policies or attack his personal character. Yet to their own surprise and frustration, some of Bill Clinton's Republican critics are applying another label to the President these days:

They say he is "Reaganesque."

What they mean is not that Mr. Clinton has adopted former President Reagan's conservative ideology but that he has the "Great Communicator's" seeming ability to defy political gravity.

Despite a drumbeat of controversy over his private conduct, the president has risen markedly in the public opinion polls. And, despite outspoken congressional opposition from Democrats as well as Republicans to key proposals such as health care reform, Mr. Clinton's foes no longer discount his capacity for an effective counterattack.

"A lesser politician," said Republican pollster Richard B. Wirthlin, would have "crashed and burned a long time ago." Mr. Wirthlin, a close adviser to Mr. Reagan while he was president, says that while he disagrees with Mr. Clinton on most major issues, he is "a superb politician."

Mr. Clinton's standing in the polls can be attributed partly to a rebounding economy. Also, many Americans who viewed him as a loser after his early setbacks in Congress have begun to change their minds following his successful uphill fights for the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Brady gun-control law.

However, some Republicans, as well as Mr. Clinton's own aides, attribute a large part of his political resilience to his personal style and skills. The former Arkansas governor has projected himself as an activist president who tackles major problems no matter how controversial. He has also been quick to exploit issues that start to zoom high on the public's agenda — whether they are traditionally associated with Democrats or with Republicans.

On crime, for example, Mr. Clinton has irritated some liberals and stirred indignation among conservatives by championing the "three strikes-and-you're-out" proposal for convicted felons and other hardline measures that were once the almost-exclusive property of the Grand Old Party (GOP).

He also maintains an optimistic, upbeat attitude in public, even in the face of setbacks, mistakes and negative news stories. Americans tend to find that a likable quality in a president, political strategists agree.

Most recent polls show Mr. Clinton with relatively strong approval ratings, somewhere above 50 per cent, although much of his support is soft.

Next fall's congressional elections will inevitably be read as a referendum on his performance. And he faces all this with at least two question marks hanging over his head:

Character: The recurrent stories of Mr. Clinton's extramarital sexual exploits do not fit easily with traditional ideals of what a president should be. Moreover, Mr. Clinton's apparent impulse to try to talk his way out of difficult situations, to equivocate and be less than fully candid when he feels pressured, could yet erode public confidence in his trustworthiness.

Whitewater: The Arkansas real estate deal involving the first family remains a serious distraction and could become very damaging if the special counsel investigating the matter turns up legal or ethical violations.

So far, a majority of voters apparently have not construed these issues as indicative of Mr. Clinton's fundamental character. Concerned about the economy and their own futures — and predisposed to think well of their president — they have taken him as he presents himself — as an imperfect but well-meaning leader who is determined to confront long-festering national problems.

For his part, the president, in an interview broadcast Friday night on PBS' "Washington Week in Review," said "there is not one single shred of evidence that anybody here has tried to abuse the authority of the presidency, tried to use it for personal gain — not me not any of my top aides.

"There have been no scandals in this administration. And I was governor for 12 years — not a hint of scandal..."

Rep. Patricia Schroeder, D-Colo., who is credited with coining the phrase "Teflon president" to describe Mr. Reagan because negative news seldom stuck to him, describes the Clinton and his top White House aides as "Energiser rabbits," referring the popular TV commercial character advertising batteries.

"They just pound, pound, pound, and keep right on going," she said. "You can say a lot about this president, but you can't say he's lazy."

Los Angeles Times

U.S., Arab scholars collaborate on new Arabic-language encyclopedia

By Joanne L. Nix
USIA Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Despite the historical and religious significance of Islam in the world, Arabic is the only major language without a comprehensive encyclopedia.

That deficiency will not last much longer, however, as Arab and American scholars are hard at work on producing the first Arabic International Encyclopedia. The 30-volume set, due to be completed in September, is based on the International World Book Encyclopedia. It will cover a variety of subjects but with a special focus on Islamic affairs.

According to Abdul Aziz Al Sweel, assistant cultural attache of the Saudi Embassy in Washington, more than 3,000 scholars, reviewers and consultants from all over the Arab and Muslim World contributed to the project, which was sponsored and funded by Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz, Saudi Arabia's Minister of Defence and Aviation.

Dr. Al Sweel said the project began in 1990 with a feasibility study conducted by Al Shuwaikhat Translation and Educational Consultants (STEC), a privately owned Saudi Arabian company. "After nearly three years of research," Dr. Al Sweel said, "STEC concluded that because Arabic is widely used throughout the world, an Arab-language encyclopedia could become a vital part of Arab and Muslim culture."

After examining several English-language encyclopedias, a STEC team of experts determined that the 1992 international edition of World Book Encyclopedia was best suited to translation into Arabic. The American-published World Book Encyclopedia, which has a recognised appeal to both adults and children, is compiled annually by more than a thousand scholars.

Dr. Al Sweel said that since the encyclopedia is intended for use by Arabic-speaking people throughout the world, the translators have standardised terms and eliminated idioms. "The entire work (is in) classical Arabic, and articles and illustrations were added which pertain to Arab and Muslim readers," said Dr. Al Sweel. Additional space was allocated for more biographies of Muslim leaders as well as the geography, history, politics, sociology and literature of Arab and Muslim countries.

George Ferguson, a World book representative who worked directly with Arab scholars on the encyclopedia project, said the Arabic International Encyclopedia will be updated periodically to incorporate new developments in the Muslim World. He pointed out that since it's first volume in 1917, the English-language World Book has been reviewed, updated and printed annually.

Mr. Ferguson said that during the preparation of the Arabic International Encyclopedia, a number of scholars reviewed the World Book material and edited or removed items that had no relevance to the Arabic-language audience. "The issues we faced — editorial content, copyrights, distribution and finance — were no different than any other project," he said.

The completed volumes will contain 15,000 pages with 25,000 colour illustrations of highly academic information — features that, according to Mr. Ferguson, make the product "revolutionary."

The international edition of World Book was first published in 1992 for marketing in countries such as Mexico, Egypt, India, South Africa, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan — i.e., countries outside North America where English is the primary or a major secondary language.

The 22-volume, 12,000 page international edition is revised and reedited annually to retain a world view in text and illustrations. For the 1993 edition, more than 40 new articles and 2,000 partially revised entries were introduced relating chiefly to the people, history and local interests of the main readership countries. The works contain more than 27,000 illustrations and 1,900 maps.

A major part of the revision programme covers the 12 new countries which arose following the disintegration of the Soviet Union. And the continuing turmoil in former Yugoslavia led to much revision and new articles on Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia.

The Arabic International Encyclopedia will be distributed throughout the Middle East and in countries with large numbers of Muslims, such as Indonesia, and in Africa.

Excavations reveal 4,000 years of settled community activity at Tell Nimrin

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

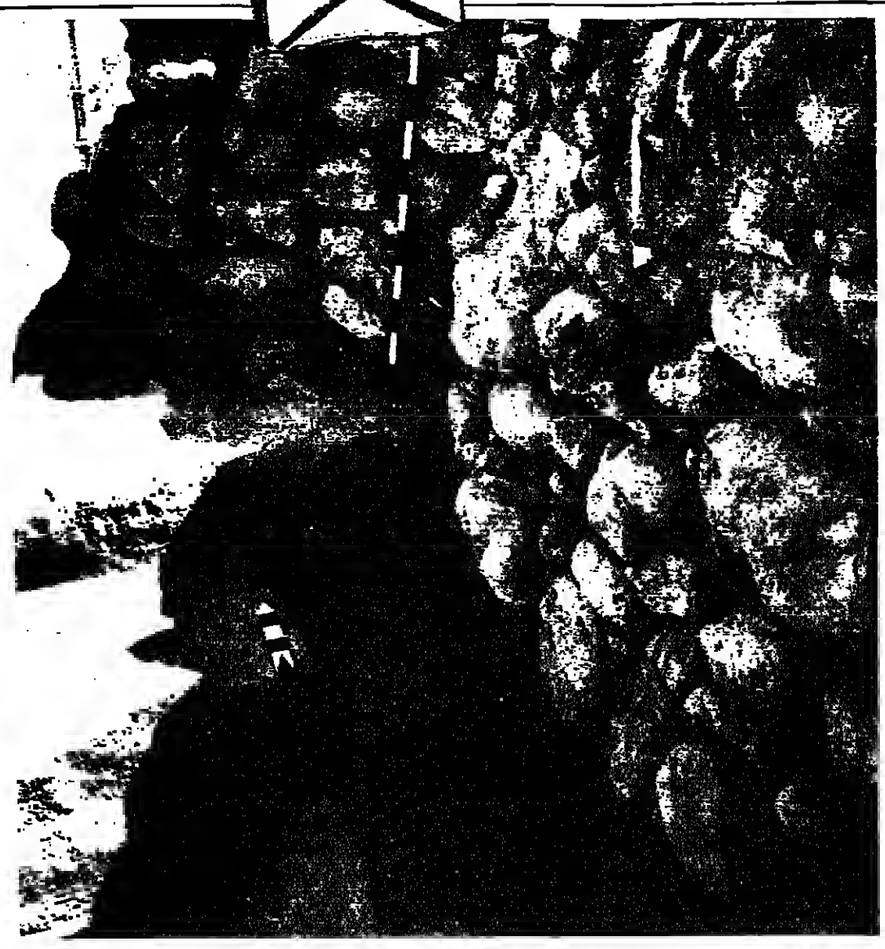
IF YOU drive by Tell Nimrin in South Shouneh village in the Jordan Valley, which you have probably done many times, you are unlikely to recognise it as anything more than another large mound of dirt similar to thousands of others like it throughout the country. Archaeological excavations at the site by a joint Jordanian-American team have revealed, however, that this is no ordinary mound.

For hidden beneath the unexciting exterior of Tell Nimrin is an extraordinary layer-cake of successive village and town civilisations that have flourished in the Jordan Valley for nearly four thousand years. The available evidence now confirms that, except for a period of several hundred years when the site appears to have been abandoned in the Late Bronze Age (around 1500-1200 BC), Tell Nimrin seems to have been continuously inhabited for the past four millennia, from the Middle Bronze Age until today.

Judging from the ancient remains that have been excavated, including architectural walls, tools, pottery and thousands of seeds and other agricultural remains, the nature of the settlement at Tell Nimrin does not seem to have changed very much over this long span of time. It is predominantly an agricultural settlement today, and has been since the first time people built houses and lived there on a permanent basis at the start of the Middle Bronze Age (around 1900 BC).

The site of Tell Nimrin has been excavated since 1989 by a team headed jointly by David McCreery of Willamette University (Oregon, USA), James Flanagan of Case Western Reserve University (Ohio, USA) and Khair Yassine of the University of Jordan. The excavation have been sponsored and funded by the co-directors' home institutions, with additional funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the H.M. O'Neill Charitable Trust (Cleveland), the S.H. and Helen Scheuer Family Foundation (New York), the Catholic Biblical Association (Washington), the Atkinson Foundation (Willamette) and the Kyle-Kelso Foundation (Pittsburgh).

The north-western corner of the site was quickly excavated in the early 1980s by a team headed by Father Michele Picirillo of the Franciscan Archaeological Mission to Jordan, after bulldozer cuts for the new road revealed a building with mosaics. Those excavations uncovered a 6th century AD Byzantine church that remained in use for some two centuries, well into the early Islamic Umayyad era. The church was built by the inhabitants of the town known as Bethnamaris, which was mentioned in the writings of 4th Century AD Byzantine writers.



The north of a 10th century B.C. stone wall which rests on a 16th century B.C. (Middle Bronze Age) mudbrick wall (photo by Rami Khouri)

The third season of excavations in 1993 confirmed the long occupational history of the site, which is one of the main interests of the archaeologists.

"With such a long span of almost continuous human occupation of the same site," Dr. McCreery told the Jordan Times in a recent interview at Tell Nimrin, "we have a good opportunity to document how people and cultures changed — or perhaps did not change so much — over time. This is a very valuable opportunity to examine the physical remains, architectural structures and cultural practices of successive civilisations living on the same spot, and probably doing the same things in economic terms, over a period of 4000 years.

Dr. Yassine adds that changing land use patterns over time are also a valuable source of information for archaeologists, historians and modern development planners alike.

"If we compare how different cultures used the same land over such a long span of time, we might get useful information about optimum land use today and in the future, especially in terms of agricultural production," he says.

Ironically, the road construction that sliced through the very northern edge of the site also revealed its importance. At the point of the bulldozer cuts, the archaeologists have been able to reveal over 12 metres of ancient occupational remains, including standing walls and intact floors.

Because the site is almost the same altitude as the nearby famous archaeological mound at Jericho, the excavators expected to find Neolithic/Chalcolithic remains (8500-3300 BC), but none have been identified to date at Tell Nimrin. The earliest evidence of human activity are a few scattered pottery sherds from the Early Bronze Age IV period (around 23000-2000 BC). These were found on the surface of alluvial gravels that are typical of the alluvial fans in the Jordan Valley, at points where side wadis spill onto the valley floor. These earliest sherds may have been from pottery used by people who passed through the area or stopped there, perhaps to use an ancient spring or to draw water from the Wadi Sbueib which runs right past the site.

The earliest evidence for settled life at Tell Nimrin is a series of stone and mudbrick walls from the Middle Bronze period (1900 BC), associated with tabuns (cooking ovens), seeds and other botanical remains. Around 1600-1500 BC, the people living at the site built some massive walls that comprised 10 courses of stones on which were stacked another 19 courses of mudbricks. One wall that was excavated at the end of the 1993 season was exposed to 16 stone courses deep, and the bottom of the wall had not been reached. Some of these walls are three metres thick and over four metres high — impressive by any historical standards — but their function is not yet clear.

They do not appear to have been city fortifications because they do not encircle the tell, but cut into it; the most likely theory is that they were part of a large civic structure located at the edge of the site — perhaps a religious temple, a palace-like residence or a storage facility for grain (though the last possibility seems less likely in view of the sparse botanical evidence associated with this structure).

The historical gap in occupation at Tell Nimrin occurs just after this period, when the site seems to have been abandoned throughout the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age (1500-1100 BC) — for reasons that are not yet known, but could relate to regional insecurity, environmental changes or economic stress.

The next period of occupation is in the early Iron Age, in the 10th Century BC, when villagers built stone and mudbrick houses and engaged in extensive agricultural work. One room dating from the late 10th Century BC (950-925 BC) was clearly used to store agricultural produce, as evidenced by rich botanical remains such as barley, wheat, lentils, chickpeas and other produce. Stone walls uncovered at the northern edge of the site may have been part of the casemate defensive system of the village, which appears to have been destroyed at the end of the Iron I period (one theory suggests this destruction was at the hands of an invading Egyptian Pharoah perhaps around 918 BC

There is evidence for continuous occupation of the site throughout the Iron Age, from around 1000 BC to the start of the Persian period [illegible] BC. Many walls and associated surfaces, tabuns, storage pits and other remains indicate that a succession of agricultural cultures lived in permanent villages at Tell Nimrin; in some periods (such as the 8th Century), the site may only have supported squatter occupation or an open-type tent settlement with little stone architecture. This is a typical pattern of occupation for the Iron Age throughout the valley, and is documented at other major sites such as Tell Deir Alla and Tell Mazar.

The settlement seems to have been destroyed or abandoned at the end of the 7th century BC, but was inhabited again throughout the entire Persian Period (550-332 BC). Architectural remains have been uncovered from the 6th and 5th centuries, and several ostraca (inscribed pottery sherds) with Aramaic script may indicate the presence of a building that was used as an administrative or commercial centre. Many storage jars in the Persian period, like all other periods at the site, suggest that Tell Nimrin's agricultural importance may have been complemented by its strategic value as a military settlement.

Evidence for occupation during the Hellenistic period comprises only a few pottery sherds, with no architecture from that time yet uncovered. Almost the same situation pertains for the Roman period, which revealed well preserved strata and some remains of architecture, though most of the architecture from the Roman era has been destroyed by modern bulldozing activity.

The Byzantine town is well attested by the church and other wall fragments that sit right on top of the Persian layers. There are also many pits, coins, silos and other elements dating from the Byzantine town. Byzantine coins found at Tell Nimrin were struck during the reigns of the emperors Valens, Valentinianus I, Leo, Zeno, Basiliscus and Anastasius, from the mid-4th to the early 6th centuries AD.

On the western edge of the tell the excavators identified Umayyad structures such as water channels, terracing, walls and some sherds. Clearly, at Tell Nimrin as in the rest of Jordan, there was continuity of settlement from the Byzantine to the Umayyad periods. Later Islamic periods are attested by some Abbasid pottery sherds and some Ayyubid-Mamluke structures, terrace walls, sherds and botanical remains.

Israeli troops, settlers kill four

(Continued from page 1)

had enough already."

Israel released 1,000 Palestinian prisoners this week, hoping to quell the violence and coax the PLO back to the peace talks.

It was also finally driven to curb militant settlers of the Kach movement and its spinoff, Kahane Lives, which have long operated with impunity in rampages against Arabs.

Authorities have arrested two Kach leaders and tried to disarm 18 others, but the crackdown by police and army has been poorly coordinated.

Four wanted Kach leaders have evaded a dragnet that is becoming something of a farce as they pop out of hiding to thumb their noses at authorities by giving clandestine TV interviews.

The radical settlers, a minority among the 120,000 Jews living in 144 settlements, have vowed to resist attempts to disarm them.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres declared Friday: "We shall not hesitate to use measures against anyone who's dangerous."

Syria urges U.N. action

Syria urged the U.N. Security Council Friday to send an international force to protect Palestinians in the occupied territories.

"Peace in the Middle East could only be achieved by the full withdrawal of Israeli forces and settlers from the occupied Arab lands," a Syrian official said.

"Until the withdrawal is made the Security Council has a duty and responsibility to send an international force to protect the Palestinian people because the Hebron massacre was not the first and will not be the last," he said.

The U.N. Security Council has so far failed to reach agreement on the wording of a resolution that would condemn the Hebron massacre.

Syria and other Arabs cut short the latest round of negotiations with Israel in Washington in protest against the massacre.

Iran's spiritual leader Friday blamed Israel and the United States for the Hebron massacre and castigated Arab governments for their failure to react more strongly, Tehran Television reported.

Speaking in a sermon at Tehran University, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said the incident was very painful to Muslims, and that "we believe that the usurper Zionist regime was directly responsible for it."

Shaath: U.S. backs armed presence

(Continued from page 1)

would attempt to push the Israeli government beyond the steps taken by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and denounced by the PLO as inadequate. They include authorising the arrest without charges of Jews the Israeli government deems extremist and the disarming of some radicals.

Without providing specific examples, Dr. Shaath told reporters: "I hope to accomplish measures that would enhance the security of the Palestinian people after this grisly massacre at Hebron, that will enable us to continue this peace process with success."

He said the PLO was at the point of signing an agreement with Israel to bring self-rule to Palestinians in Jericho and Gaza before the Hebron incident. "This requires some measures that I hope the administration will support in the (U.N.) Security Council and other areas."

"We want the peace process to continue and succeed because this is the only guarantee that we will have real security in the long run," the PLO negotiator said.

Mr. Christopher has tried to persuade Mr. Arafat to accept Mr. Clinton's invitation by telephoning him three times since the mosque attack, heaping praise on the PLO leader and steamily demanding Mr. Rabin act swiftly on measures approved by his cabinet to restrain radical settlers.

Mr. Christopher has also hinted he may support some international presence temporarily in the occupied territories.

"They need to see a different future," Mr. Christopher told congress on Wednesday.

But, above all, Mr. Christopher has insisted that the agreement with Israel to establish self-rule for Palestinians in Jericho and Gaza be completed and implemented in order to create "new realities" in the territories.

That would mean Mr. Arafat accepting Mr. Clinton's invitation and sending negotiators to work with Israel — and deferring some PLO demands to future talks.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres Friday declined to comment on reports in the Israeli media that the U.S. had asked Israel to take automatic weapons from extremist settlers. He was speaking to reporters after meetings with two European Union envoys and Peter Tarnoff, U.S. Under-secretary of state for political affairs.

Israel has said it would detain five settlers without trial and disarm fewer than 100.

Israel has said it would consider an international observer force — but not a military force — to supervise its withdrawal from the occupied lands and the start of self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

On Friday, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said he expected a decision "in due time, under authority of the United Nations," for an observer force.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said a day earlier that London is willing to contribute civilian observers, but not armed units.

Jibril Rajoub, a top Arafat aide, took an even harder line on Jewish settlements in an interview published in the Hebrew daily Yedioth Ahronoth Friday.

Mr. Rajoub, who was expelled from Hebron in 1988 for anti-Israeli activities, said that if Israel did not dismantle all settlements in the occupied territories, "we'll distribute weapons to the Palestinians and return to the armed struggle."

All four defendants found guilty in blast

(Continued from page 1)

argument and said Mr. Salameh still wanted his representation.

The bombing killed six and injured more than 1,000 in the 110-storey twin towers, the world's second-tallest buildings. Among the dead was a pregnant clerical worker.

The noontime blast blew a five-storey-deep crater in a garage beneath the trade centre. The 550-kilogrammes) of explosives inside a yellow Ryder rental van wrecked the skyscrapers' power and emergency systems.

Tens of thousands of people fled down smoky, dark stairwells in a six-hour evacuation. Seventeen kindergartners spent five hours trapped in an elevator. A pregnant woman was plucked off a rooftop by a helicopter.

Two days later, deep in the rubble, Federal Bureau of investigation (FBI) agents found van parts with vehicle identification numbers. That led them to Mr. Salameh, who was arrested March 4 as tried to recover a $400 deposit on the rental van.

Mohammad Salameh

Nidal Ayyad

In all, seven men were charged with conspiracy in the bombing. Bilal Al Kaisi, 28, awaits trial, and Mr. Yousef 26, and another suspect, Abdul Yasin, 33, are fugitives.

In a related case, 15 others are charged with plotting to blow up the United Nations, the federal building housing the FBI and two tunnels and a bridge connecting Manhattan and New Jersey. The trade centre bombing allegedly was part of that conspiracy; the trial is scheduled for this fall.

One defendant in that case is Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, a blind cleric who allegedly inspired the group with fiery rhetoric he delivered in a storefront mosque in Jersey City. Sheikh Abdul Rahman was acquitted in Egypt of charges that he provoked the assassination of President Anwar Sadat in 1981.

Another defendant is Al Sayyid Nosair, who has been jailed for three years on charges related to the killing of radical Rabbi Meir Kahane.

Prosecutors said all four defendants in the trade centre trial had links to Mr. Nosair.

The trial proceeded slowly at first; even the judge said it was boring.

But there were accounts from survivors of the bombing, and there were some surprises; a Secret Service agent claimed he had seen a yellow van an instant before the explosion.

And prosecution witness Willie Moosh, asked to pick out the men he saw at his gas station with a yellow van the morning of the blast, pointed to two jurors instead. He later said he had made a mistake and pointed to defendants Abu Halima and Mr. Salameh — placing them with the van hours after Mr. Salameh had reported it stolen.

The blast caused an estimated $550 million in damage and closed the towers for weeks. It also spread fear of recurrences in the United States, fuelling a boom in private and public security. A year later, however, many of those measures had eased as the bombing remained an isolated episode.

Serbs still raping, murdering

(Continued from page 1)

national historic and artistic significance, has been destroyed by explosives.

Muslim-led government troops and Serbs are into their fourth week of a ceasefire around Sarajevo. Muslims and Croats are marking their second week of a country-wide ceasefire.

These promising developments have prompted some observers to predict peace this year for Bosnia.

But little has been done to address Serb determination to use force to change Bosnia's internationally recognised borders and create a pure Serb state.

The UNHCR has five international staff members on duty in Banja Luka, assisted by about 10 local staff. They are too few to protect Muslims in Banja Luka or even witness most of their tribulations.

"It's very difficult, we cannot stop it, we cannot even monitor it properly," acknowledged Mr. Janowski.

In Rome, a tribunal to try war crime cases from the conflict in the former Yugoslavia is being stifled because the United Nations has not yet voted its budget, the mayor of Sarajevo said Friday.

"It should have started some time ago," said Mohammad Kresevljakovic, the mayor of the besieged Bosnian city.

"If the same effort had been made to find money for the tribunal as had been made to buy weapons, we would already have the richest war crimes court ever," he told a news conference in Rome where he held talks with Italian government officials.

Mr. Kresevljakovic said Sarajevo city authorities had already handed over documentation to the tribunal regarding alleged atrocities committed in Bosnia.

"We feel hurt. We gave the evidence, but do not know if anyone has been able to work on it," he said.

The 11-member tribunal, headed by Italian Judge Antonio Cassesse, is the first international war crimes panel set up since the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials after World War II.

Clinton hauls out big gun in trade battle

WASHINGTON (AP) — [illegible] produced by competitive American workers," the president said as he announced his decision. "This action will help us reach our objective — open markets that will create better jobs and increase wages at home and abroad."

Administration officials denied that they were trying to start a trade war with Japan, but they said the United States would not relent in its efforts to open Japan's markets as a way of narrowing a record $59.3 billion trade imbalance between the two nations.

Seiichi Kondo, a spokesman for the Japanese embassy, said in Washington: "We certainly hope the United States will recognise the inherent dangers" in imposing unilateral trade sanctions.

Other Japanese officials have warned about counter-retaliation on the part of Japan if the United States slaps punitive tariffs on Japanese products, a development that would spark a full-blown trade war between the world's two largest economies.

Trade tensions were at the heart of an ABC News-Washington Post poll, released Thursday, in which 58 per cent of Americans surveyed viewed U.S.-Japanese relations as not good or poor, while only 38 per cent thought they were excellent or good.

A solid 78 per cent said they thought Japan was an unfair trader, and two-thirds believed Japan was not serious about reducing its trade surplus. The telephone survey of 1,531 was conducted Feb. 24-27 and carried a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points.

The administration already has the power to initiate market-opening investigations and impose tariffs if the talks fail to produce results under the regular section 301 of the 1974 trade act.

What Super 301 provides is a strict timetable for results. The clock will begin running March 31 with publication of an annual "national trade estimate report" that provides a survey of unfair trade practices that are barring U.S. exporters around the world.

From that list, the administration will be Sept. 30 designate "priority foreign country practices" that are blocking the largest amount of U.S. exports and begin a 21-day period of preliminary negotiations.

If those preliminary talks fail to produce results, the United States would initiate a formal investigation that could take up to 18 months and allow time for further negotiations.

Only if those talks proved fruitless would the United States impose sanctions. That period could stretch until March 1996, although administration officials said if the talks were goinng nowhere, sanctions could come much sooner.

In 1989, the United States targeted Japan, Brazil and India and reached successful agreements dealing with super computers, satellites and wood products with Japan and removal of restrictive import licenses in Brazil. Talks with India were unsuccessful.

Other countries have been universal in their condemnation of the Super 301 procedures, assailing the process as unilateral hullying.

"We are not looking to start a war, hut we are looking to establish some fairness," presidential press secretary Dee Dee Myers said on Mutual Radio.

U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor said the administration had no choice but to revive Super 301 in its efforts to open Japan's markets.

The decision was made in the wake of the collapse of "framework" trade talks between the United States and Japan on Feb. 11 that marred a summit meeting between Mr. Clinton and Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

The president called Mr. Hosokawa to inform him personally of the decision and described the talk as a "friendly, forthright" discussion.

Before tbe two leaders talked, Mr. Hosokawa had told a parliamentary committee that "I strongly hope that the U.S. government will judge and act in good sense."

The two countries appeared no eloser to resolving the fundamental dispnte hetween them — a U.S. demand that Japan agree to setting specific import goals in the framework talks. The Japanese have said they will put forward a new market-opening offer by the end of this month.

Chinese farmers need protection from GATT — report

BEIJING (Agencies) — An official newspaper has called on the Chinese government to take urgent action to protect farmers against increased competition once the country rejoins GATT.

The protectionist appeal was made by International Business newspaper, which said that while China's eventual reentry into the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) would be beneficial to integration into the world market, it wonld also pose a serious challenge to Chinese agriculture.

With prices rising and the quality of some products falling the government should strengthen controls on imports of wheat and edible oil, the paper said, adding that efforts must be made to readjust the import structure and improve the allocation of resources.

A price support policy for farmers should be worked out in line with both GATT requirements and the situation in China, it said, urging the development of agriculture in line with the principles of "high output, high quality, high yield" to improve international competitiveness.

Meanwhile, the Press Digest qnoted vice minister for foreign economic relations and trade Shi Guangsheng as saying he expected China to be accepted hack into GATT in the second half of 1995 at the latest.

China — a founding member of GATT in 1948 — withdrew the following year when the communists came to power. It applied to rejoin the world trade body in 1986.

European Commissioner Leon Brittan said that China conld enter GATT this year and that a more liberal economy would hring improved buman rights.

China is keen to become a founding member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the successor to GATT which is due to come into existence on Jan. 1 or July 1, 1995, but it must first become a GATT member.

"China will not be able to do all the things that we want hy that date (to enter GATT) hnt could commit itself to do them within an agreed timescale hy that date," Sir Brittan said. "That could enahle China to reach the target date."

He said there will be complex and perhaps difficult negotiations to agree on the nature of the commitments more precisely and the schedule of the timing that would be acceptahle to the European Union (EU).

Sir Brittan gave Chinese officials a protocol on China's GATT entry, with a list of requirements, which he said was welcomed hy the Chinese side.

Among other things, the EU is seeking cuts in tariffs, greater transparency, improved access for its firms into sectors such as distribution, banking and insurance and a safeguard clanse against surges in Chinese exports.

In its report on the GATT discussions, the People's Daily Tuesday said China promised to continne its reforms and bring its economic system in line with international practice, especially concerning GATT regulations.

Abu Dhabi's oil reserves put at over 92 billion barrels

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Abu Dhabi's crude oil reserves have nearly doubled in 10 years, exceeding 92 billion barrels as the emirate presses ahead with exploration and expansion of its production capacity, an official report has said.

The reserves stand at 92.2 billion barrels at the end of 1992, while gas reserves reached 183 trillion cubic feet (5.49 trillion cubic metres), the Abu Dhabi planning department said.

It estimated oil production at around two million harrels per day (b/d) in 1992 and exports at 1.8 million b/d. Gas output stood at 661 billion cubic feet (19.83 hillion cubic metres) in the same period.

The report gave no figures for crude output in 1993 hut oil sources said it was slightly lower as the United Arah Emirates (UAE) was sticking to its quota of 2.16 million b/d set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The UAE's total proven oil reserves are estimated at 98 billion harrels and gas at 186 trillion cubic feet (5.58 trillion cuhic metres). Most of the remaining oil reserves are hased in Dubai and gas in Sharjah.

In their latest annual reports, several oil companies operating in the UAE said they were pursuing exploration hut no major finds were recorded in 1993.

Multi-billion-dollar projects were also underway to boost oil and gas ontput capacity to meet growing world demand. They will push crude production capacity to more than 2.6 million b/d in 1995, from around 2.3 million b/d.

Japan remained the top importer of Abu Dhabi's oil, receiving nearly half its output, along with almost all the gas.

The report said oil wells in Ahu Dhabi increased to 2,257 in 1992 from 2,170 in 1991, and producing wells to 997, from 993.

Oil earnings plunged to 30.5 billion dirhams ($8.3 hillion) in 1992 from 37.5 billion dirhams ($10.2 billion) in 1991, due to a drop in crude exports and prices, according to the report.

This prompted the government to slash spending to 35.1 billion dirhams ($9.65 billion) from 48.8 hillion dirhams ($13.29 hillion). Bnt the deficit persisted at $1.35 billion.

Despite the decline in oil income, Abn Dhabi's gross domestic product rose to around 95 hillion dirhams ($25.88 billion) in 1992, from 91.7 billion dirhams ($24.98 billion) in 1991, dne to a surge in other sectors.

The 1992 figure accounted for more than two-thirds of the GDP of the seven Gulf emirates making up the UAE — Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Fujeirah, Umm Al Quwain and Ras Al Khaimah.

Dollar outlook remains mixed as immediate pressures remain down

This report is submitted by Nasser Nabulsi, private client group, Merrill Lynch-Dubai

Overview

Fundamental view: A sharp rise in European and Japanese bond yields relative to the U.S. has helped weaken the U.S. dollar in recent days, as has the U.S. move toward imposing trade sanctions on Japan. The outlook for the dollar remains mixed. Prospects for large current account surpluses to persist suggest that yen strength will continue and perhaps intensify over the coming year. We maintain our 6-month target of JPY/USD 100 and our 12-month target of JPY/USD 95. We continue to look for the dollar to strengthen against European currencies over the coming year as European interest rates decline, and look for the dollar to trade at the DM/USD 1.85 level by this time next year.

Technical view: Compared to the weakness of the prior week, the U.S. dollar was able to stabilise somewhat during the week ended Feb. 25. Although the greenback posted week-to-week gains against only [illegible] of the six currencies we most regularly discuss, overall the U.S. dollar index gained 0.1 per cent. Short term sentiment readings are still at or near oversold readings, but both [illegible] term momentum oscillators have a downward [illegible].

Thus, even though we continue to believe that the greenback is [illegible] strong rally over the longer term, the [illegible] remain down. With this in mind, the dollar's movements against individual currencies will likely be of more interest in coming weeks than the index. Important resistance exists at [illegible]. Nearby support is just above 94.00, with [illegible].

Deutschemark

Fundamental view: The dollar has weakened to the DM/USD 1.7[illegible] level [illegible] higher bond yields in Germany and perceptions that Bundesbank easing will remain extremely cautious. Germany reported M-3 money growth of an annualised 20.6 per cent in January, far above the Bundeshank's target range of 6 per cent. The figure was distorted by special factors, but underlying money growth is still running around 7 per cent, which could contribute to further caution about easing. Against that, the sharp liquidity squeeze that has gripped Europe's bond markets could prompt central hanks to ease sooner rather than later. With U.S. growth of 7.5 per cent in the fourth quarter, another round of monetary tightening is expected in coming weeks in the U.S.

We do not expect another cut in Germany's discount rate until May or June, but despite the recent money growth shock the Bundesbank is still likely to start trimming its repo rate soon. The outlook for inflation to moderate further looks excellent, especially if the recent wage agreement in the chemical sector sets a pattern for other settlements.

We expect the dollar to reach the DM/USD 1.80 level in 3 months.

Technical view: The Deutschemark rallied 0.2 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended Feb. 25. Medium term sentiment readings are now neutral. Short term momentum has confirmed the recent strength and medium term oscillators remain quite constructive.

All of this suggests that, even though the dominant long term trend remains down, the immediate pressures in coming weeks should still be to the upside. Resistance is 1.68-1.69 DM/U.S.$. The former resistance at 1.73 is now support. The mark/yen cross moved back up through 61 last week, hut medium term momentum is still pointing down. The cross will have to move back up through 62.50 over the next few weeks to reverse that oscillator from down to up.

In an environment where both the yen and the D-mark are expected to rally versus the U.S. dollar, resistance in the 65.50-66.50 range will be monitored for a potentially important breakout. A break below 59 would at least nominally set the stage for 55.

Japanese yen

Fundamental view: The yen has strengthened to the JPY/USD 103.6 level as the Clinton administration moves towards imposing trade sanctions on Japan. Although U.S. officials have avoided talking the yen up, many market participants have concluded that the administration favours yen appreciation as a way of cutting Japan's trade surplus. Interest rate developments also appear to be lending support to the yen, 10-year government bond yields have shot up to 3.9 per cent and futures markets are now discounting a 100 basis point rise in Japanese short-term interest rates over the next year.

The yen is likely to remain bighly sensitive to U.S.-Japan political tensions in coming weeks. Trade concessions by Japan could lead to a pullback in the yen, while lack of progress in boosting imports would likely require a stronger yen to restrain Japanese exports. Based on the latest Bank of Japan quarterly survey, which showed no improvement in the economy, we continue tto expect tbe Bank of Japan to cut its discount rate by 0.50 per cent or 0.75 per cent by the end of Marcb.

We expect persistent current account surpluses to keep upward pressure on the yen. Even if Japan agrees to some market access measures for U.S. companies, we still expect a current account surplus of nearly $120 hillion this year. That should help the yen to continue to trade in the JPY/USD 100-to-110 range for most of this year and we expect it to reach a level as high as JPY/USD 95 by this time next year.

Techical view: The Japanese yen fell 0.1 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week for its first loss in five weeks. Sentiment indicators continue to deteriorate and are moving into the neighbourhood of being overbought. While short term momentum has turned down, medium term oscillators remain constructive. We are inclined to view any weakness as temporary and think that new highs as likely; indeed, a rally much through 101 would allow for at least 98. Although benehmark support remains 113-114, intervening support at 105-106 and 109-110 will likely be more important focal points in coming weeks.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY MARCH 5, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Try to offset a stubbom and uncooperative spirit early in the day as the Moon squares Venus which could lead to unfortunate arguments that benefit no one in the long run. Study a money making venture.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Establish a new system for your regular tasks so that they are easier to perform. Be more optimistic about the future in aoy situation which comes about.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) State your aims to good friends and gain their support in a oew project you have in mind. Express happiness with congenial companions.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Go to influential persons for the help you need to carry through with your plans. See that your personal life is well organized.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can put io motion a project that was impossible to do in the past. Take treatments to improve appearance.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Concentrate on how to improve your environment. Discuss practical maners with friends and get their advice on how to proceed ahead.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Make sure to improve conditions at home. Not a good day to ask an influential person for a favour. Eogage in a favourite hobby for peace of mind.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Study your surroundings and make plans for improvement. Make oew contacts that will be helpful in your enterprise which you are currently involved.

SCORPIO: (Oetober 23 to November 21) Ideal day to enjoy yourself at recreations in the company of congenial friends and associates. A talent you have can be expressed at this time.

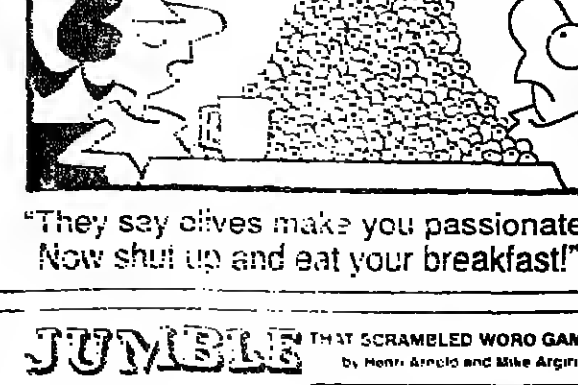
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) It may be difficult to gain your aims in the morning but things will improve later in the day. Spend money wisely and you can have some in reserve.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Take time to consult influential persons who can help you in your career. Be more williog to cooperate with others in any situation.

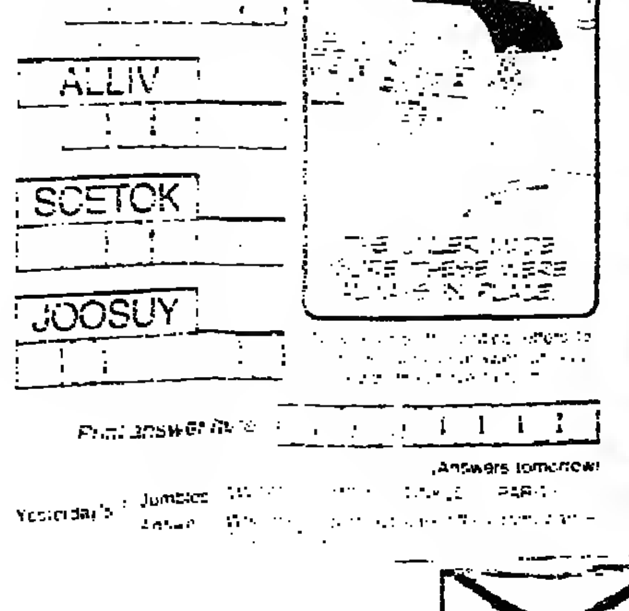
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Study your monetary affairs well and know how best to improve them. Contact a financial expert and get excellent advice.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A good day to further personal relationships and make big headway. Discuss personal plans with trusted friends and you will get much accomplished.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"They say olives make you passionate. Now shut up and eat your breakfast!"



Peanuts

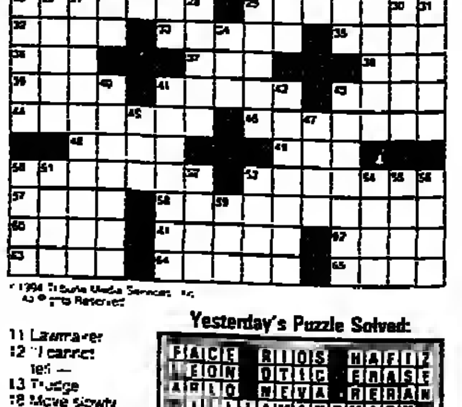
Andy Capp

Mutt'n'Jeff

THE Daily Crossword by Harvey L. Chew

ACROSS
1 Justify
5 Adores
13 Insult sharply
14 Fiord
15 Dodge
16 Swiss archer
17 One who torments trouble
19 Exchange premium
20 Endless
21 Hatched
23 Play division
24 Strokes lightly
25 Cattleman
28 Habitual customer
32 Assist
33 Wise man
35 Wedding member
36 Hammarskjold
37 Fairy queen
38 "My country — of thee"
39 Parade
41 Buenos —
43 Part for an actor
44 Sure
46 Nightclub
48 Roman road
49 Butter
50 Conversed
53 Fairy
57 Memorizing process
58 Investor
60 Press
61 Heavy fabric
62 Part of speech
63 Prohibits
64 Lyric poem
65 Far prel

DOWN
1 Pierre's friend
2 Outlet
3 Sheltic
4 Disallow
5 Embezzles
6 Elliptical
7 Large container
8 Biblical kingdom
9 Mexican shawls
10 Set in motion
11 Lawmaker
12 "I cannot tell —"
13 Trudge
18 Move slowly
22 Certain musical piece
25 Gary Burghoff role
26 Lesser
27 One at the bargaining table
28 Textile fiber
29 Renaissance ladle
30 Nimble
31 Adjust
34 Needlefish
40 Hand warmers
41 Halo
42 Pilchard
43 Unbridles
45 Same
47 TV's Barbara or Conrad
50 Nursery item
51 Israeli dance
52 Liquid globule
53 Ripened
54 Amenrd
55 Anima
56 Fish-eating bird
59 After words



© 1994 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHMEISANI
TELEPHONE: 440170 / 242170

ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (22/02/1994 - 02/03/1994)

WEEKLY REPORT

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK				
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	285,492	193.000	192.000	193.000
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	121,923	7.800	7.930	7.920
BANK OF JORDAN	70,218	59.000	20.000	57.000
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK.	12,992	4.730	2.730	2.720
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	1,749,149	2.150	2.100	2.080
THE HOUSING BANK	119,194	3.500	3.450	3.320
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	77,752	4.250	6.340	4.300
JORDAN GULF BANK	372,049	2.230	2.200	2.300
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	522,122	2.120	2.170	2.210
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK/NEW	23,006	4.430	4.440	4.420
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	555,559	4.270	4.230	4.250
BUSINESS BANK	72,088	4.110	9.190	5.200
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	74,744	4.230	4.350	4.250
BEIT ELMAL SAVINGS&INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	85,422	8.450	8.450	9.300
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	44,481	4.940	4.400	4.730
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	1,347,042	2.060	2.080	2.050
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK.	7,254	4.040	4.090	4.800
JORDAN INSURANCE	21,542	2.390	2.380	7.440
ARABIAN SEAS INSURANCE	2,850	2.850	2.850	2.850
GENERAL ARABIA INSURANCE	4,240	2.400	2.400	2.600
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	21,000	2.750	2.750	2.730
UNIVERSAL INSURANCE	28,042	3.700	3.700	3.700
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	42,122	1.780	1.250	1.720
AL-NISR AL-ARABI INSURANCE	8,890	2.970	2.930	2.000
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	850	4.050	4.800	4.500
IRBID DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	135,945	2.270	2.150	2.080
VEHICLES OWNERS FEDERATION	1,224	1.230	1.380	1.360
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	2,350	7.300	7.250	7.250
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	22,382	4.050	4.950	4.880
JORDAN TOURISM & SPA COMPLEX	10,072	2.450	2.420	2.430
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	21,000	0.780	0.750	0.780
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	106,045	4.200	4.420	4.330
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	88,648	1.750	1.750	1.740
MACHINARY EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE	1,125	1.280	1.500	1.500
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRA'I	14,380	1.150	1.130	1.130
JORDAN PRESS & PUBLISHING /AD-DUSTOUR	17,222	12.900	12.700	13.200
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	94,449	14.710	14.900	10.000
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	81,010	2.050	2.230	2.230
ATTAMOEER CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	294,037	2.780	2.730	2.050
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	20,772	1.700	1.470	1.680
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	423,335	2.150	2.250	2.130
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINARY	2,300	2.000	3.600	2.000
JORDAN TANNING	40,297	10.400	10.250	10.290
WOOLEN INDUSTRIES	988	7.820	7.820	7.820
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	764	2.190	2.150	2.120
THE JORDAN WORSTED MILLS	53,704	7.100	7.100	7.100
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	436,192	22.300	12.500	12.500
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	101,242	7.850	7.850	7.730
JORDAN DAIRY	37,914	4.450	4.400	4.730
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	2,759	2.150	2.100	2.050
JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	196,577	4.590	4.540	4.490
THE PUBLIC MINING	729	4.400	4.800	4.600
ARAB CHEMICAL DETERGENTS INDUSTRIES	5,720	9.600	2.940	2.050
SPINNING & WEAVING	9,272	10.750	10.950	10.730
RAFIA INDUSTRIES	12,988	2.770	2.740	2.780
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	127,453	2.130	2.070	3.090
DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	22,928	0.360	0.350	0.360
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	2,272,110	10.200	27.930	17.750
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY	107,422	2.370	2.300	2.120
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	142,094	10.150	10.100	10.300
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	8,801	1.540	1.230	1.530
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	21,470	0.430	0.430	0.410
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	55,075	5.180	5.130	5.120
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	24,254	2.380	2.370	2.390
JORDAN ROCKWOOL INDUSTRIES	530	5.500	5.300	5.300
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	50,442	2.150	2.140	2.250
ALADDIN INDUSTRIES	12,188	8.000	8.000	7.500
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JIMCO	4,600	4.600	4.600	4.600
JORDAN PRECAST CONCRETE INDUSTRY	17,141	1.170	1.140	1.170
JORDAN WOOD INDUSTRIES / JWICO	17,288	0.400	0.600	0.390
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	1,530	5.900	2.159	2.150
JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS	2,309	7.600	7.230	7.230
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	5,828	3.220	3.200	3.350
JORDAN KUWAIT CO. FOR AGRI. & FOOD PROD.	21,404	2.310	2.250	2.380
EASTERN INVESTMENT	12,909	1.250	1.238	1.230
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	4,027	2.430	2.400	2.420
	722,302	5.020	9.010	5.910
GRAND TOTAL	11,989,049			

PARALLEL MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (22/02/1994 - 02/03/1994)

WEEKLY REPORT

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	246,889	1.230	1.340	1.270
JORDAN TRADE FACILITIES	160,728	0.920	0.230	0.900
JORDAN MARKETING CORP.	38,472	1.400	1.400	1.600
MIDDLE EAST FOR DEVL.& TRADE CO. 50%	777	0.878	0.870	0.870
JORDANIAN EXPATRIATES INVESTMENT HOLDING	52,301	1.290	1.430	1.790
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	132,071	2.730	2.500	2.940
NATIONAL TEXTILE & PLASTICS IND. CO 75%	342,535	1.560	1.550	1.810
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	83,722	2.500	2.500	2.520
NATIONAL MULTIPLE INDUSTRIES	57,279	2.120	2.110	2.150
EL-ZAY READY WEAR MANUFACTURING CO.	25,047	3.210	3.230	3.200
GRAND TOTAL	1,340,254			

Algeria to sign stand-by credit agreement with IMF this month

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algeria will sign a stand-by credit agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) towards the end of March, financial sources have said.

The accord will enable Algeria to obtain two credits: One of $500 million to finance preparations for a structural adjustment programme envisaged by the IMF and the other of $300 million to compensate for oil revenues lost because of a fall in oil prices internationally.

At the end of a trial year, a new, enlarged credit facility should be negotiated for a three-year period the IMF deems necessary for implementation of the adjustment plan.

Officials in Algeria, which has been wracked by a guerrilla war by Islamic fundamentalists for more than two years, had wanted both agreements to be made at the same time, but the IMF appeared to have rejected tbis option, the sources said.

Algeria, which has been hesitating over the rescheduling of its $26 billion foreign debt, expects the stand-by accord to open the way to loans notably from the European Union, which had been made conditional on a pact with the IMF.

These would include the second, 150-million European Currency Unit (ECU; $169 million) tranche of a 400-million-ECU credit granted more than a year ago.

First estimates suggest Algeria's foreign earnings in 1994 are likely to be around $9 billion, at best enough to cover debt service but leaving minimum financing requirements of $7 billion for food and industrial imports.

The forecasts were based on an oil price of $18 a barrel; but the current decline in prices, down to around $14-$15, will mean a loss of $500 million for Algeria for every dollar the barrel sells under that sum, financial sources said.

This loss of earnings will affect the budget deficit, which was set at 125 billion dinars ($6 billion) at the beginning of the year but is already expected to be larger.

The main factors behind the deficit are subsidies to loss-making state-owned companies and for three essential products, milk, semolina and flour. The IMF has called for an end to these subsidies.

Negotiations on possible debt rescheduling are currently under way, but the amount in question has not been closed.

Despite reassuring statements from IMF Director-General Michael Camdessus on a "good agreement" between Algeria and his institution, an anti-IMF front bas emerged in recent days, led by the UGTA labour federation.

The trade union body rejects any devaluation of the dinar and the staff cuts in public companies demanded by the IMF, and has called for an unemployment allowance for laid-off workers.

UGTA Secretary-General Abdul Hak Benhamouda said the federation will not support the IMF's shock therapy for Algeria's ailing economy.

According to unconfirmed reports, the IMF has called for a 50 per cent devaluation of the dinar, which would slash the purchasing power of Algerians

The international body is also said to have called for interest rates to be aligned with inflation, running at 32 per cent a year which would lead to cuts in credit for companies and a broad opening of the market to foreign produce.

The authorities have been making cautious progress in negotiations with the IMF for fear of a social explosion, against the political background of the murderous confrontation between Islamists and the security forces.

Trading at AFM dips by 20% but surge expected this week

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Weekly trading at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) slipped by 20 per cent last week, but no significant shifts were seen in the price of stocks despite fears sparked by the Feb. 25 massacre of Palestinians in a Hebron mosque.

Figures released by tbe AFM showed that 4.3 million shares worth JD 13.3 million changed hands during the week ending Thursday compared with JD 16.6 million during the previous week.

Industrial stock led the list, accounting for JD 5.8 million (43.6 per cent), closely followed by the banking sector with 5.7 million (42.8 per cent) and the services sector with JD 1.6 million (12.2 per cent) and insurance companies with JD 200,000 (1.4 per cent).

Sbares of 87 companies out of the 114 listed at the market were involved in trading, the report said, adding that 34 of them showed gains while 35 showed a decline and 18 remained stable.

However, the gains or drops were of no significant nature to show any distinct trend in the market, brokers said.

"Trading was largely lacklustre, with investors with large commitments losing a little bere, gaining a little there, but there was not sign in the market of panic selling or buying as a result of the late February events," said a broker.

The broker, who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with standing AFM guidelines, was referring to the massacre at the Ibrahimi Mosque in the occupied West Bank town of Hebron last Friday.

"People do get alarmed by turbulent events in tbe region, particularly Jordan and the occupied territories, but tbey are reluctant to dump their holdings in a burry and suffer losses," said tbe broker.

"A majority of them would like to hang on their holdings awaiting further developments," he said. The broker conceded that prospects for Middle East peace, and, by extension, profit-making ventures in the occupied territories, were set back by the massacre and the subsequent suspension of peace talks.

"But, by and large, people seem convinced that the setback is temporary and it is only a matter of time before the peace negotiations would resume," he said. "As such, stock holders are not willing to be triggered into panic selling or buying."

According to the broker, most individual speculators with limited capital opted to stay away from trading during the week as was the case the previous two weeks which saw a decline in weekly turnover which had hit more than JD 21 million in January.

The daily average trading at tbe AFM was around JD 4.2 million in late January, but it dropped to JD 2.7 million in less than a month. But the drop was mostly due to abstention by investors during the boly month of Ramadan when they consider indulgence in market speculation as sacrilege, brokers say.

They expect a surge in trading this week, particularly during the last few days of Ramadan ahead of an almost week-long boliday.

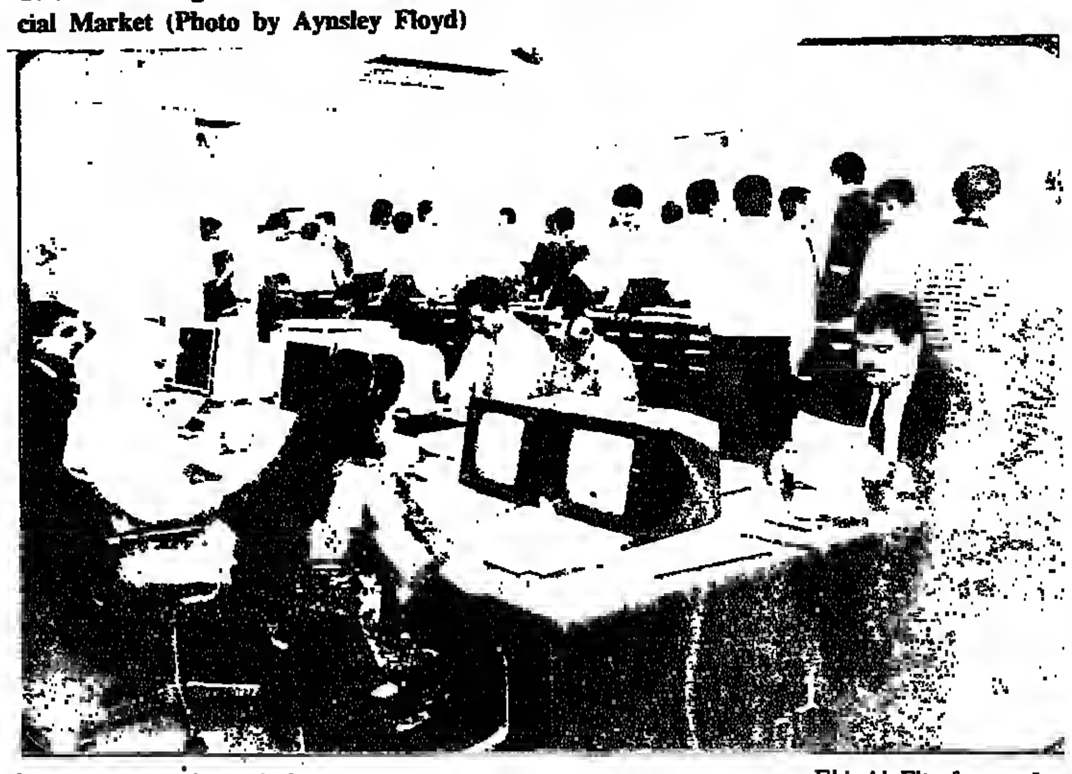
They said speculators would converge on the market during tbe last days of Ramadan for fresb acquisitions whicb could be held over Eid Al Fitr for profit-taking.

Banking officials handling AFM portfolios noted that many companies were expected to release their 1993 figures during the month of March, with dividend distributions slated for April.

"Many investors already know of the performance of most companies and are retaining their stock for profit-taking in the latter half of March," said the broker.

"This has been an established trend in the market for years."

Photos show registration of deals after being concluded on the floor of the Amman Financial Market (Photo by Aynsley Floyd)



Iranian committee debates GATT membership

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has set up a special committee to discuss the pros and cons of joining the GATT international trade pact, Iranian television has said.

The committee, composed of representatives of a dozen ministries and other bodies, could take months or years to reach a conclusion to report to President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the television said.

Mohammad Baqer Nowbakht, a member of parliament interviewed on television, said joining GATT was not in the interest of Iran which earns most of its hard cash from crude oil exports.

Mr. Nowbakht, a member of the parliament's plan and budget committee, said Iran would lose out by joining GATT and lowering tariffs because its industries could not compete with imports.

Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 2/3/1994	Tokyo Close Date 3/3/1994
Sterling Pound*	1.4964	1.4936
Deutsche Mark	1.7050	1.7075
Swiss Franc	1.4310	1.4317
French Franc	5.8020	5.8155**
Japanese Yen	104.20	103.92
European Currency Unit	1.1320	1.1316**

* USD Per STG.
** European Opening at 8.00 a.m. LMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates — Date: 3/3/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.3125	3.4375	3.5625	4.0000
Sterling Pound	4.9375	4.9375	5.0000	5.0625
Deutsche Mark	5.8750	5.6875	5.5000	5.3750
Swiss Franc	4.0000	3.9375	3.8125	3.6875
French Franc	6.1875	6.1250	5.9375	5.8125
Japanese Yen	2.1250	2.0625	2.0625	2.1250
European Currency Unit	6.3200	6.1900	6.0800	5.9400

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals — Date: 3/3/1994

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	377.55	7.40	Silver	5.28	0.120

21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin — Date: 3/3/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6980	0.7000
Sterling Pound	1.0419	1.0471
Deutsche Mark	0.4086	0.4106
Swiss Franc	0.4871	0.4985
French Franc	0.1200	0.1206
Japanese Yen	0.6714	0.6748
Dutch Guilder	0.3640	0.3658
Swedish Krona	[illegible]	[illegible]
Italian Lira	0.0414	0.0416
Belgian Franc	[illegible]	[illegible]

Per 100

Other Currencies — Date: 3/3/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8320	1.8480
Lebanese Lira	0.040400	0.041625
Saudi Riyal	0.1858	0.1867
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3380	2.3600
Qatari Riyal	0.1895	0.1905
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2200
Omani Riyal	1.7900	1.8060
UAE Dirham	0.1895	0.1905
Greek Drachma	0.2735	0.3145
Cypriot Pound	1.3335	1.3860

Per 100

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

THE PROFESSIONALS ALWAYS CHOOSE THE RELIABLE
PACKING, AIR FREIGHT FORWARDING, DOOR-to DOOR SERVICES AND DELIVERIES, CUSTOMS CLEARANCE, TICKETS AND, RESERVATIONS.
AMIN KAWAR & SONS
TEL. 604676 604696
P.O.BOX 7806
AMMAN

FOR RENT & SALE
Many villas and apartments furnished or unfurnished.
For more details call:
Abdoun Real Estate
Tel. 810605/810609/810520
Fax: 810520

STUDIO HAIG
Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service
Develop your colour film at our shop and get:-
* JUMBO photo size 30% larger
* Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm
Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank. Phone: 604042
Swefieh tel: 823891

.Swelfiyeh. 816690
Turino Flat .O.Tel
* Serviced Suites In Grand Hotel Style !
Cheers Cafe' Hamburgers+ Pizzas
ELITE CAFE"
Cheers Cafe'
OPEN IN RAMADAN
4:30 p.m.-V. Late

DANZAS
INTERNATIONAL DOOR TO DOOR REMOVALS
GERMAN DRIVERS - AIR - RIDDEN REMOVAL TRUCKS
YOUR REGULAR LINK TO AND FROM EUROPE
SPECIALISTS FOR DIPLOMATIC REMOVALS IN THE NEAR EAST
FOR DETAILED INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
EASTERN SERVICES
OFFICIAL DANZAS AGENT IN JORDAN
TEL : 621 775 TLX : 23023 FAX : 656 270
PEACE BUILDING - JABAL LWEIBDEH
AMMAN - JORDAN

The Inn Place to be..
Rozena Restaurant
* Open air terrace.
* Round table for 12-18 guests.
* Open 7 days a week
Tel 613572
2nd circle - Jabal Amman.
SABEEL Hotel Suites
"homely and intimate"
Tel. 630571 Fax.630572

LARA SALON AND BEAUTY CENTRE
Hairstyling, hair removal with hot wax and Arabic way. Manicure, pedicure and facials.
Sweifieh, opposite Boston Fried Chicken
Tel. 862552

AVIS
We try harder.
SAS
699-420

Bonita INN
Andalusian Iftar or à la carte dinner
Jabal Amman 3rd circle
Tel. 61 50 61

The First Class Hotel in Amman that has a Kitchenette in every room...! "Satellite T.V. Reception"
DAROTEL
داروتيل
Amman - Tel. 668193
P.O.Box 9403 - Fax 602434
Telex 23888 DAROTL JO
Ideal Residence For Expatriates and Businessmen

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT
Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket
Mongolian Barbeque for Lunch Friday only
Tel: 818214
Come and taste our specialities
Open daily 12:00 - 3:30 p.m.
6:30 - Midnight

FOR YOUR Advertisement in Jordan Times
Call tel:
667171 ext. 223

INTER-CONTINENTAL JORDAN
THE BEST IN INDIAN CUISINE.
Bukhara RESTAURANT
OPEN FOR LUNCH & DINNER
For reservations call 641361

SZECHWAN GARDENS CHINESE RESTAURANT
Typical Chinese Foods
Skilled Chinese Chefs
Open 11:30 - 3:30 & 6:00 - Midnight
Take away is available
Shat Al-Arab Street
Um Uthainah Commercial Centre
Tel.: 861174
Once Tasted Always Loved

RESTAURANT CHINA
The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan
1st Circle Jabal Amman near Ahliyyah Girls School
Take away is available
open daily
5:00 - 11:30 p.m.
Tel. 638968

[illegible]ooting mars Sarajevo truce; [illegible].N. wants more peacekeepers

[illegible] (AP) — French [illegible] fired a warning [illegible] from a machine gun to [illegible] truce violation [illegible] the Sarajevo front, and [illegible] officials appealed for [illegible] more soldiers.

[illegible] Akashi, chief of the [illegible] mission in former Yugoslavia, [illegible] said the troops [illegible] needed to secure truces [illegible] Serbs and the Muslim [illegible] government in Sarajevo and between Croats and Muslims in central and southwestern Bosnia.

He said both ceasefires generally were holding but expressed concern about increasing violations.

"We very much need not only the full compliance by the parties of the agreements they have already accepted or reached, but also we... need additional resources, additional personnel," he said in Zagreb, Croatia.

Mr. Akashi said he needed 4,600 more soldiers for Sarajevo and 6,050 for the rest of Bosnia. That would nearly double the number of peacekeepers in Bosnia.

With the United States declining to commit troops without an overall peace accord, and Britain, France and Canada reluctant to send more troops, it was unclear where Mr. Akashi might get additional peacekeepers.

The U.N. mission's military chief, Gen. Jean Cot of France, said reinforcements were needed immediately to avoid "losing what has been done."

Gen. Cot had harsh words for the U.S. decision not to commit ground troops unless the Bosnian factions work out a peace settlement. That policy is "not very courageous," he said.

The United States does have a large contingent of warplanes in the NATO force that patrols Bosnia's skies. Two U.S. F-16 fighter jets shot down four Serbs warplanes that U.N. officials said bombed a Bosnian government Aros factory Monday about 45 miles northwest of Sarajevo.

A NATO threat to use warplanes to bomb Serb artillery around Sarajevo ended the shelling of the besieged capital by forcing the Serbs to remove their tanks, howitzers and mortars.

In Washington, the commander of U.S. forces in Europe said the Serbs had almost completely complied with the ultimatum, removing or surrendering nearly all of the 600 heavy weapons surrounding Sarajevo.

"I'd say we're close" to full compliance, Gen. George Joulwan told the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee Thursday.

The ultimatum on Sarajevo bolstered a U.N.-mediated truce that has generally held for three weeks, the longest in the city in nearly two years of siege.

A U.N. spokesman, Maj. Jose Labandeira, said Serb troops opened fire with small arms on government troops at the Jewish cemetery in downtown Sarajevo early Thursday. French peacekeepers in the area then fired a warning volley of machine-gune fire.

That followed an incident Wednesday in which Serbs shot four rocket-propelled grenades at government troops near the cemetery, prompting a gun battle. U.N. officials quoted Serbs as saying they fired tbe grenades because government soldiers were violating the truce by reinforcing trenches.

Maj. Labandeira said three more grenades were fired Thursday but peacekeepers had not determined who was responsible.

"Both sides are very, very close in tbat area, and it bas always been very tense," said Lt. Col. Bill Aikman, another U.N. spokesman. "We are monitoring it, and we expect that it will not continue."

U.N. officials said front lines between Muslim and Bosnian Croat troops were generally stable. Col. Aikman, said the southwestern city of Mostar was quiet except for five shells that exploded in tbe Muslim-held eastern side late Wednesday.

Muslims and Croats, once allies against the Serbs in Bosnia, signed an agreement Tuesday in Washington to cease bostilities and form a federation.

U.N. officials said the two sides agreed Thursday on three-man patrols along confrontation lines to bolster their truce. Each patrol would have one U.N. monitor, accompanied by a Croat and a Muslim, both unarmed.

The Croats also agreed to allow the Bosnian government to maintain weapons in six areas wbere Croats, Muslims and Serbs are in close proximity, but only if the Muslims use their weapons solely against the Serbs.

More than 200,000 people have been killed or are missing in Bosnia since Serbs armed by the Yugoslav Federal army rebelled against Muslims and Croats who seceded from Serb-dominated Yngoslavia.

British UNPROFOR Lt. 'Spite' Martin from the No. 2 Company of the Coldstream Guards (left) directs a Serb T 55 tank onto the road on its way to a U.N. beavy weapons storage site west of Sarajevo (AFP photo)

[illegible] boy looks through a window of this [illegible] building in Tuzla where some of the thousands of refugees from Srebrenica have been accomodated (AFP photo)

[illegible]in: Russia cannot afford 'reforms at any cost'

[illegible] — President [illegible] Friday that [illegible] "economic [illegible] cost," but [illegible] major [illegible] reforms [illegible].

[illegible] speech, Prime [illegible] Chernomyrdin [illegible] to continue free-market [illegible] and chastised those [illegible] about him having presidential ambitions.

Russia is not a racing car [illegible] the wheel, get a ride, [illegible] out, and the entire [illegible] is broken up [illegible] in a [illegible] afterward," Mr. Chernomyrdin said.

[illegible] not one of those [illegible] who goes from [illegible] manager and jumps [illegible] position of vice president and even wants to become [illegible]," he said.

[illegible] Yeltsin, sitting nearby, [illegible] and applauded along with hundreds of top representatives of the government, [illegible] and industry.

In [illegible]-minute speech in the Kremlin's ornate marble hall, Mr. Yeltsin said Russia must [illegible] a social safety net to [illegible] "the proper level of social protection for those who cannot make due without state support."

"Economic reforms at any cost" is a false slogan," Mr. Yeltsin said. "People can reject an excessively burdensome reform."

However, he added that a further delay "in introducing the long-overdue changes does even worse damages."

Friday's session was mainly devoted to discussion of the proposed 1994 budget and the sorry state of the Russian economy.

The draft budget calls for spending cuts and redncing monthly inflation to no more than 12 per cent. Last year, inflation ran at an averge of 20 per cent a month.

Mr. Yeltsin said he wanted to bring inflation down to 5 per cent a month by the end of the year, but conceded it will be a slow, tough fight.

"In the present circumstances of Russia, any war on inflation will be a trench war," he said. "I think that military terms are quite appropriate in this context. You cannot vanquish inflation in a single fierce charge. To win the battle, a full-scale coordination of the actions of the president, the (parliament) and the government will be needed."

Mr. Yeltsin also spoke of the need to attract foreign investment, reform Russia's tax system, overhaul the operation of banks and establish a federal reserve system for Russia.

Mr. Chernomyrdin said his government would stick to the economic programme it approved last August.

"We intend to adhere to it in the future," he said in a 40-minute speech. "We are going to implement it, however hard it may be."

Former Economics Minister Yegor Gaidar, who quit the government earlier this year after complaining it was abandoning reforms, said Friday he was sceptical the budget posposals would be carried out.

"So far, if we talk not about wishes, but about actual decisions, these targets are not realistic," Mr. Gaidar said.

He noted that the cabinet last month approved a 14-trillion-ruble agricultural aid package, and "tbese two programmes contradict each other not in details or commas, but in trillions of rubles."

"Much of what the prime minister said is absolutely right," he added. "Bnt in real life and in economics, what is done is more important than what is said."

One government critic immediately dismissed the document.

"nothing will help," a ultra-nationalist lawmaker Vladimir Zhirinovsky said. "Only a change in the political leadership will help."

Mr. Yeltsin denounced parliament for giving amnesty to hardliners who battled him last October and to leaders of the 1991 Soviet conp.

The amnesty was a "violation of the constitution, law and moral standards," he said.

But Mr. Yeltsin ruled out another clash with Russia's lawmakers for "the good of its citizens, its security and civil peace."

"Democracy in Russia today means primarily stability, order and cooperation," he said.

Indigenous supporters of the Zapatista rebels hold up a picture of Emiliano Zapata during a demonstration in support of the Zapatista National Liberation Army (AFP photo)

Mexican rebels weigh peace offers, but risk to government could be high

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico (AP) — The government faces almost as much political risk from its tentative peace accord with Indian rebels as it would if the the talks had failed.

Government pledges in the accord reached Wednesday witb tbe rebel Zapatista National Liberation Army cover most insurgents' demands for aiding impoverished Indians in southern Chiapas state.

While Indian communities must approve the accord before a treaty can be formally signed, the agreement is a major achievement for a government eager to settle the uprising before Angust presidential elections.

Still, the governing Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, will be under scrutiny to change the way it does business. Some say the PRI will put itself at risk of losing power for the first time since it took over in 1929.

One promise in the accord is to make this year's presidential election clean. The PRI has won every national election since its founding, frequently amid acrimonious opposition charges of fraud, intimidation and other misdeeds.

Observers call the Aug. 21 election the real hostage in government dealings with the rebels. The uprising could still trouble the voting to replace President Carlos Salinas De Gortari, who cannot run again. Other poor gronps throughout Mexico could also resort to violence.

Porfirio Munoz Ledo, a federal senator and member of the opposition, told Guatemalan journalists Wednesday that the Zapatista uprising "belped undress the Mexican reality at an international level."

The government agreed with nine political parties Monday to strengthen the role of independent observers and allow greater outside scrutiny of voter rolls held by the federal election institute.

The institute is a semi-autonomous body of the Interior Ministry, which like other branches of government, is dominated by the PRI.

The rebels bave warned there will be no real peace if central demands for democratic reforms are not met, and the guerrilla leader who used the nom de guerre Snbcommandante Marcos has repeatedly insisted that Mr. Salinas resign.

The tentative agreement reached after 10 days of talks promises sweeping social and political change in Chiapas, the state where the uprising began.

Nearly one-third of the 3.8 million people in Chiapas are Indian.

Reforms on Chiapas state election laws will be so profound that interim Gov. Javier Lopez Moreno said Wednesay that state elections would be postponed from August until next year.

Indian peasants, meanwhile, must approve the preliminary accord reached before any formal agreement is reached, rebels said.

Rebel negotiators, including Subcommandante Marcos, left San Cristobal De Las Casas at sunrise Thursday aboard six fonr-wbeel-drive vebieles accompanied by Red Cross workers to return to tell of the accord.

Also in the convoy was government envoy Mannel Camacho Solis and the talk's mediator, Roman Catbolic Bishop Samnel Rniz. The negotiations were beld in this town's 16th-century cathedral.

No answer was expected for weeks from the Indians, many of whom live in remote jungle regions.

The Zapatistas seized this city and several other towns on Jan. 1. At least 145 people, mostly rebels and civilians, died before a Jan. 12 ceasefire, but the actual number may never be known.

In[illegible]atha discusses vote; ANC leader gets death threat

[illegible] (AP) — [illegible] Freedom Party [illegible] Friday [illegible] to decide [illegible] to join [illegible] alliance [illegible] before international mediators.

An election boycott would make voting much more violent, many would-be voters would fear to take part and the election's legitimacy could be called into question

Meanwhile, the ANC confirmed that it has stepped up security around its chief negotiator, General Secretary Cyril Ramaphosa, after being informed of an alleged right-wing death plot against him.

"It's one of those things that leave one numb," Mr. Ramaphosa said on Johannesburg's Radio 702 Friday morning. "But at the same time, this is one of those things one expects in politics."

The plot on Mr. Ramaphosa's life, reportedly revealed to the ANC by a right-wing white leader, Gen. Constand Viljoen, came amid mounting indications that at least part of the white right is preparing for armed insurrection.

An ANC office was bombed overnight in the Northern Cape province town of Kuruman, a region that right-wingers have proclaimed to be part of their prospective "Volkstaat," or "people's state," no injuries were reported.

A published report Friday revealed a secret government intelligence assessment of the right-wing threat, prepared for President F.W. De Klerk's cabinet.

According to the document, reported by the independent weekly Mail And Guardian, right-wingers have contingency plans to "neutralise" hostile army generals and were counting on the army's elite Rapid Deployment Force to defect to its side.

The white right-wing can call on an estimated 20,000-30,000 paramilitary troops, according to the report, the newspaper said. It did not reveal how it obtained the document, but said it has confirmed its authenticity.

After an emergency meeting Thursday, Freedom Alliance leaders said they would consider registering for the poll if the ANC agreed to international mediation of its demands for more regional powers being put into the constitution.

The ANC Thursday responded that it agreed to international mediation in principle, setting the stage for Inkatha's decision-making session Friday.

Inkatha's decision was being debated in a closed-door Central Committee meeting in Ulundi, capital of Kawazulu.

An Inkatha spokesman, Moses Mkhwamazi, said he expected the meeting to be "productive." "I'd be a prophet if I could predict the final outcome," he said.

"We expect them to register. ...Even if it is provisional it will do a lot to increase confidence in tbe country," said Mr. Ramaphosa in the radio interview.

He stressed that the ANC viewed international mediation as worthwhile to settle differences and avoid conflicts. "We are going to give it a go," he said.

The deadline for election registration is midnight Friday, but some Freedom Alliance leaders has suggested that could be pushed back.

However, the chairman of the country's independent Electoral Commission said Friday that the list of parties must be finalised by Saturday in order for ballots to be printed in time.

[illegible]apan parliament passes anti-corruption law

[illegible] (AP) — Landmark [illegible] aimed at reforming Japan's notoriously corrupt political system quietly became [illegible] Friday, ending a tortuous, [illegible] debate that helped [illegible] two prime ministers.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, who took office last August promising to either pass the reforms or resign, said the package represents "a major step toward the attainment of new, responsible politics."

Because the package had already attained approval of the more powerful lower house, Friday's final vote in the upper house of parliament was a pro forma decision, concluded without any of the fiery rhetoric of earlier debates. The vote took only a few minutes.

"We must move steadfastly toward creating a society of quality and substance that will have the international community's trust," Mr. Hosokawa said in a nationally televised speech before parliament.

Mr. Hosokawa owes much of his popularity to his focus on ridding politics of the widespread bribery and influence-for-hire scandals that had deeply stained the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) during its 38 year rule.

Both of Mr. Hosokawa's Liberal Democratic predecessors — Toshiki Kaifu and Kiichi Miyazawa — also supported reform bills but failed to get them through parliament.

A slew of battles with the Liberal Democrats, now Japan's largest opposition party, had pushed Mr. Hosokawa's seven-party ruling coalition to the brink of collapse. But the two sides finally worked out a watered-down compromise version of the bill.

Under the new laws, single-member districts will replace the current multi-member dis-tri[illegible]

New York airport under fire for short runways after latest accident

NEW YORK (AP) — A third disastrous takeoff in less than five years has focused attention on the short runways of New York City's La Guardia Airport, where bureaucratic delay has stalled an effort to widen the safety margin.

The airport, aware that it is on airline pilots' short list of fields they'd like to avoid, began planning more than five years ago to add 460 feet (140 metres) of overrun to its main east-west runway, wbere the latest accident oceurred Wednesday evening.

Thirty-five of the 116 people aboard a Denver-bound Continental MD-80 jet were injured when the pilot tried to abort the takeoff in snow and the plane ran off the end of the runway and nosed down at a breakwater a few feet from Flushing Bay.

National Transportation Safety Board investigators from Washington began looking for the cause Thursday, starting with retrieval of the plane's voice and flight-data recorders.

In the earlier takeoff accidents, two passengers died in September 1989 wben the pilot couldn't stop a USAIR jet from plunging into the bay, and 27 people were killed in March 1992 when wing ice sent another USAIR plane crashing off the runway.

White House misspelled European ministers' names

PARIS (R) — The White House, in a diplomatic gaffe, misspelled the names of several European ministers it invited to a high-level jobs conference in Detroit this month, the International Herald Tribune newspaper reported. Documents from U.S. President Bill Clinton's office included errors in the names of British Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke (spelled Clark), German Labour Minister Norbert Bluem (spelled Bloehm), Italian Treasury Minister Piero Barucci (called Pietro) and European Economics Commissioner Henning Christopbersen (spelled Christopherson). Compounding the offence, the White House omitted completely the first names of the French Economics and Labour Ministers, Edmond Alpbandery and Michel Girand. The newspaper said the Clinton administration had also irked its guests by telling them they will have to pay for their own rooms at a Detriot hotel during the Marcb 14-15 meeting. "I don't want to be impolite," one Italian government official was quoted as saying, "But this Clinton presidency oh dear it is a real fritto misto (mixed bag). They are mixing up our names and our titles."

Hong Kong police muffle naked anti-fur protest

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong police were too quick for a pair of animal rights activists, wrapping them in blankets as they stripped off in public in an anti-fur protest. Americans Dan Mathews and Julia Sloan had planned to march nearly naked through the streets of Kowloon, their modesty precariously protected cloth banners declaring: "We'd rather go naked than wear fur." Their protest was timed to coincide with a major fur and fashion trade fair in Hong Kong this week. But plainclothes police pounced the moment the two members of the radical People For the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) began to disrobe on a seafront promenade. They were wrapped unceremoniously in police blankets, bundled into a van and taken to a nearby police station. Police released the two later with a warning. Mr. Mathews, from Washington DC, said before his arrest the protest was intended to start people talking about animal rights. Fur sales have fallen drastically in North America and Western Europe as a result of animal rights awareness campaigns. "We are here to keep fur out of Asia," Mr. Mathews said.

Beauticians exposed to chemicals risk miscarriages

CHAPEL HILL, North Carolina (AFP) — The risk of miscarriage can double for beauticians who often use chemicals to clean their instruments, according to a new study. The study found a correlation between miscarriages and the number of bours a day worked in cosmetology, the number of serivces involving chemicals done each week, the use of formaldehyde-based disinfectants and the amount of work done in saloons giving manicures. "We did see an almost two-fold increase in spontaneons abortions among women wbo used formaldebyde to disinfect their cosmetology utensils during pregnancy," said doctor Esther John, associate professor of epidemiology at Stanford University School of Medicine in Palo Alto, California.

Spielberg discusses film with Mitterrand

PARIS (AFP) — U.S. film director Steven Spielberg met with French President Francois Mitterrand and discussed his new film Schindler's List, which recounts how a Nazi officer saved Jews from the World War II death camps. "We discussed the importance of education in the schools about the holocaust," Spielberg said after the meeting at the presidential palace. "He has not seen my film yet. After I talked to him for a while. He sensed what the film was about and certainly felt very supportive about it." Spielberg, who made the blockbuster Jurassic Park, also said he understood why the French campaigned for a "cultural exception" in the audiovisual sector during last year's GATT negotiations.

Harding assaulted in park near home

ERTON, Ore (AP) — American figure ska- nya Harding was in a city park near tment complex where been staying with police said Friday.

ng suffered scrapes uises and a sprained h the attack, which about 11 p.m. Thurs- lice said it was possible targeted.

iog told investigators walking from her pick- k lhrough McMillen the apartment complex man knocked her down ehind, police spokes- ark Hyde said.

man then jumped on k, and a struggle eo- he assailant, who did anything, fled when activated a personal Hyde said.

an back to her friends' nt, where she called

vas taken to a hospital, she was treated for on her knees and and a sprained left then released, Hyde

e and tracking dogs d the park, but failed to e suspect.

ling did not get a good t ber assailant and no itnessed tbe attack, lasted less than two mi- Hyde said.

aid investigators did not the authenticity of Hard- eport.

erything that we have lat based on the pbysical ce at the scene and ber state at the time cer- tainly suggests it was a legitimate attack," Hyde said.

As to whether the attack was planned rather than random, Hyde said: "You certainly have to look at that as a possibility. It's not a park that's used on a regular basis."

He said police would talk to Harding again "to backtrack what she was doing" Thursday night, as well as to people who might have seeo something suspicious in the area.

Harding is the subject of an investigation into wbether sbe was involved with or knew of the plot to attack rival figure skater Nancy Kerrigan Jan. 6 in Detroit.

Meanwbile in Washington, the U.S. Justice Department was Thursday reviewing wbether any federal crimes were committed by Harding in the attack on her competitior, Nancy Kerrigan.

"The review is still under way," said John Russel, spokesman for the Justice Department's Criminal Division. He said the review was undertaken at the request, about two weeks ago, of local prosecutors in Portland, Oregon, Harding's bome.

Federal officials are studying whether Harding may have violated the Hobbs act, which makes it a felony to interfere or conspire to interfere with commerce by use of violence or the threat of it, Russell said. The act carries a penalty of up to 20 years in prison.

Criminal division attorneys are "very skeptical" that a Hobbs act prosecutioo cao be brought, according to a federal official.

Dallas Mavericks Greg Dreiling (right) fouls the Orlando Magic Shaquille O'Neal during second quarter action at Reunion Arena Thursday (AFP photo)

Michael Jordan plays like nervous rookie

SARASOTA, Fla. (AP) — Michael Jordan felt like a nervous rookie, and played like one.

Jordan went 0-for-3, barely missing an extra-based hit before strikiog out twice oo off-speed pitches as his team fell 12-7 Thursday io an intrasquad game for the Chicago White Sox. On the field, he also dropped a wind-blown fly ball.

"Some critics may see it as a setback, but I saw it as an opportunity to go out and see what a baseball game is like," Jordan said.

"It was my first game and I felt nervous and out of my element," he said. "Hopefully, I'll get another chance and be a little more comfortable."

White Sox Manager Gene Lamont said Jordan would oot start Friday in the exhibitioo opener against Texas. But Lamont said Jordan is likely to play some in right field.

"If he'd gone 3-for-3 or 0-for-5, I doo't think it would've made any difference," Lamont said. "It was just a chance for him go out there. He probably hit the bardest ball of the day."

In his first at-bat, facing the fastballs of prospect James Baldwin, Jordan hit a line drive into the gap that left fielder Warren Newson caught with a backhanded dive.

Jordan, batting sixth for a team led by coach Joe Nossek, had a tougher time against the tricks of rookies Rod Bolton and Scott Christman.

Jordan was called out by college Umpre Cal Van Aukeo on a 1-2 sinker by Bolton and swung far ahead of a 2-2 changeup by Christman.

No pitcher threw close to Jordan, and he managed a total three foul balls in his three at-bats.

"No hits, but certainly I felt comfortable at the bat," Jordan said. "I saw every pitch. I saw some good ones."

Jordan was on the same team as Jack McDowell and did not face the young winner. Al MVP Frank Thomas, Robin Veotura and most of Chicago's Regulars did not play.

Earlier in the fifth inning, Jordan was fooled by the wind. With two outs, two runners on and the score 6-6, Joe Hall sliced a high fly into the 40 KPH gusts. Jordan, instructed to play deep, ran in and toward the line, but the ball glanced off bis glove, a model specially made by Wilson with his name in it. One run scored on the play, and eight runs scored io an inning that included errors by all three outfielders.

"I didn't think I would be able to reach it," Jordan said. "When I did, I was not able to collect myself, and the ball hit the heel of my glove," he said.

Auriol chases Kankkunen in Portuguese Rally

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — A I-2 Toyota finish looked likely io the Portuguese Rally Friday as Didier Auriol chased teammate Juha Kankkunen over the first six stages of the fourth and final day of the 2,215-kilometre race.

Auriol blazed around the six gravel tracks, winning two races any tying for first in another to make up 12 seconds oo Kankkunen and solidify Toyota's lock on the leader board.

Breaking a course record to win the 34th stage, Auriol moved within 29 seconds of the defending world cbampion's overall time of six hours, three minntes and 18 seconds.

But it was Kankkunen's consistency — never lower than fourth in a stage — that enabled the "flying Finn" to get close to the lead.

"I feel great and the car is in good shape," Kankkunen told reporters at the morning break in Arganil, 220 kilometres norhteast of Lisbon. "I still haven't won the rally, and during the afternoon I'm not going to defend, I'm going to drive."

Local favoorite Carlos Sainz, of Spain, also drove well, winning one stage and tying for second with Kankkunen on another. Bot Sainz's effort was not enough to get past Italy's Massimo 'Miki' Biasion.

Biasion, behind the wheel of a Ford Cosworth CS, won two stages and tied for first with Kankkunen oo another, holding oo to tbird place, 45 seconds off the lead.

The 1994 Portugal Rally has seen favoured drivers drop-out early. Scotland's Colio McRae Thursday abandoned the race after bis Subaru Impreza 555 stalled on the steep mid-country hills.

Edberg advances, Chang, Martin eliminated from Champions Cup

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. (AP) — Third-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden advanced to the quarterfinals of the Champions Cup Thursday, but No. 6 Michael Chang and No. 7 Todd Martin were both upset victims.

Edberg needed only 68 minutes to eliminate Fabrice Santoro of France 6-2, 6-3. A day earlier, Santoro beat Andre Agassi, who was playing in only his second tournamenr n the last five mooths.

Chang lost to No. 12 Alexander Volkov of Russia 6-4, 1-6, 6-3. Martin, who reached the finals of the Australian Open in January, was beaten by No. 10 Petr Korda of the Czech Republic 6-4, 3-6, 6-2.

In other third-rouod action, eighth-seeded Thomas Muster of Austria beat Jooathan Stark 6-4, 6-4; Darren Cahill of Australia outlasted No. 11 Marc Rosset of Switzerland 6-4, 5-7, 7-6 (7-5); no. 16 Carlos Costa of Spain rallied to beat Patrick Rafter of Australia 4-6, 6-4, 7-5, and Aaron Krickstein came back for a 2-6, 6-4, 6-4 victory over Patrick McEnroe.

In the quarterfinals, Edberg will play Cahill; Volkov will meet Krickstein; Korda will face Costa, and Muster will meet the winner of the Sampras-Washington match.

When Korda and Martin took the stadium court to play the first match of the day, the temperature was 41 C. And it got botter as the day went on, reaching a peak of 48 C. on the court.

"I don'r think he (Chang) felt so well because be was so wet," Volkov said after scoring his upset, referring to the fact that Chang was soaked with sweat.

"I played so well in the first set," Volkov said. "I didn't make any mistakes. Michael did not play very well today. He playing defensive, he made too many mistakes. I felt confident, I hit short balls and won a lot of points."

Chang said the two-hour, nine-minute match was "a little strange."

"I was a little bit flat," Chang said. "I made a few unforced errors that really hurt me. I've bad success against Alexander in the past. He was not only bitting winners. I was making errors, so it was tough to beat him."

'Soccer more popular in U.S. than polls show'

WASHINGTON (USIA) — A spokesman for the U.S. World Cup organising committee rejects public opinion polls on soccer's purported unpopularity in the United States, arguing ing iostead that American sports fans have already demonstrated their support for the game.

Teddy Roe, speaking last week on a WorldNet television dialogue programme with participants io Algiers, called soccer's popularity in the U.S. "bidden." In fact, Roe asserted, soccer is the fastest-growing youth sport in this country, with more than 15 million active participants. Since the 1970s, he said, the game has beeo growing, starting in the pnblic schools and in youth leagues. Speaking from personal experience, Roe said the youth league player of today will be the father of his own soccer player tomorrow.

U.S. domestic allotment for World Cup seats, about 65 per cent of the 3.5 million available seats in the nine U.S. cities where the tournament will be played, sold out last June — a year before the World Cup begins — according to Roe.

Even after all the seats were sold, Roe said Americans are still clamouring for tickets. Eveo more remarkable, fans bonght their tickets withoui knowing which countries would qualify teams for the the World Cup or in which cities the teams would play.

Roe discounted polls reporting that only 20 per cent of Americans know the World Cup will be played in the Unired States, and that only 18 per cent know it will be played this year. He called those polls not "particularly accurate." Once sponsors start promoting the World Cnp on American television, be said, "there's no question io my mind that everybody in the United States will know the World Cup is here."

Once the TV promotion begins, he said, the continued growth of soccer in the United States depends on bow well the U.S. team does in the World Cup and whether it "captures tbe imagination of a larger number of American sports fans."

He said soccer will grow, even though it competes for the American sports dollar against the popular TV sports of baseball, basketball, and (American) football.

Soccer's growth, says Roe, will be manifested in 1995 when a 12-team first division U.S. professional league begins play. He said the league, while not initially on the same level with pro leagues in Latin America and Europe, hopes to develop its own American stars, who will in turn belp soccer develop in this country.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

© 1993 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

CARPE DIEM

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ J 7 6 5 2
♡ K 10 7
♢ A J 10
♣ K Q

WEST
♠ Void
♡ 9 5 4 3
♢ 8 6 5 3
♣ J 10 9 6 4

EAST
♠ K 10 3
♡ J 8 2
♢ K Q 7
♣ 8 5 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q 9 8 4
♡ A Q 6
♢ 9 4 2
♣ A 7

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	4 ♢	Pass
4 ♡	Pass	6 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening lead: Jack of ♣

"Be Prepared," the motto of the Boy Scouts, also could serve as the watchword for defenders. Chances to direct the attack come seldom and you cannot afford to let them slip by.

Since there could possibly be two fast diamond losers on the hand, South decided to investigate slam possibilities with a cue-bidding sequence. That presented East with the opportunity to double four diamonds as a lead-director, an advantage that went a-begging. As a result, when North contracted for six spades, West was on lead with no information from partner as a guide, in particular that a diamond lead was vital to defeat the contract.

West's opening salvo of a club was surely blameless and declarer made the most of the reprieve. The first trick was won in dummy and declarer next made the correct technical play of the jack of spades, covered by the king and taken with the ace. West's failure to follow was a just reward for careful play. Declarer crossed to the king of hearts and took the marked finesse for the ten of spades.

After drawing the last trump, declarer completed the groundwork for an endplay by clearing hearts and clubs from both the table and the closed hand. Then a diamond was led and the ten was finessed. In with the queen, East had a choice of losing options. A diamond into the board's tenace would solve declarer's problem in that suit; a heart or a club would permit declarer to ruff in one hand while discarding a diamond from the other. No matter what the slam was in the bag.

FOR SALE

'93 BMW, 318 IS, black, 2 doors, full options, automatic, U.S. specifications, 5,500 miles, price JD 20,000. Duty unpaid.

Call 676273

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

Shmeisani — near the Chinese Embassy

Consisting of 3 bedrooms, 2 sitting rooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen with central heating and telephone.

Please call tel.: 602547

A FURNISHED HOUSE FOR RENT

A fully furnished house located at the 4th Circle area, consisting of two large bedrooms, and one small, a large living area, a dining area, 2 bathrooms and telephone.

Please call daily and after 12:00 Tel.: 644963

SALES REPRESENTATIVE WANTED

A newly established potato chips producer is seeking an aggressive, ambitious, sales representative to market its products in the Kingdom and abroad.

Candidates should contact Tel. 643578

A EMBAIXADA DO BRASIL EM AMÃ

CONVOCA todos os cidadãos brasileiros residentes na Jordânia, maiores de 16 anos, a comparecer ao Setor Consular da Embaixada até o dia 8 de abril próximo, munidos do Título de Eleitor, se já o tiverem, ou de documento brasileiro de identidade, para se alistarem ou se recadastrarem para as eleições presidenciais de 3 de outubro do corrente ano.

Horário de atendimento:
Domingo a 5ª feira, das 9 às 12 horas.

FOR LADIES ONLY
AL DALAL

inside the Forte Grand (formerly Plaza) hotel you will get a free gift when you have a minimum purchase of **JD 1.** We have a daily advertisement. Bring the advertisement with you and get a gift throughout Ramadan.

VACANCY

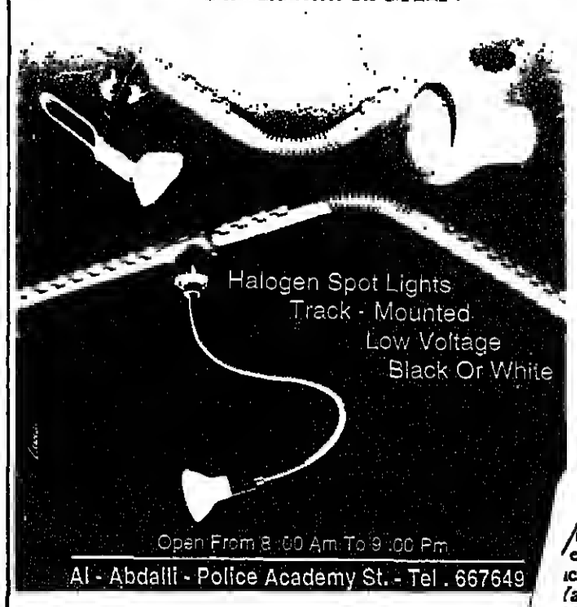
The U.S. Embassy in Amman has a vacancy for a Cultural Affairs Assistant in the American Center to implement cultural programs.

Applicants must have a university degree in liberal arts, education or a relevant field; must have fluent English and Arabic. Must have two years experience and a good working knowledge of the Jordanian political, economic, social, artistic and educational structure. Administrative ability to carry out detailed cultural programs, drafting and word processing required. Designing publications and/or desk top publishing experience desirable.

Qualified applicants should submit an application (available at Embassy gate) to the Personnel Officer prior to March 17, 1994.

Seikaly

LIGHTS UP YOUR WORLD..... AGAIN



VACANCIES AVAILABLE

An Industrial Establishment at Sahab Industrial City, has a vacancy for:

a) **Chemical Engineer:**
whose job will be to develop and manage the company's industrial laboratory.

b) **Sales Representative:**
— B.A. in Business Administration or Marketing.
— Good command of English language.
— Owning a car.

Interested candidates should submit C.V. to the following address:

The Manager
P.O. Box 5204
Amman-Jordan

ORIENT EXPRESS FOR TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Announces its attractive trip programmes for the Eid Al Fitr Feast

☆☆ **Al Ghardaqah** ☆☆ 5 days, 4 nights from March 11 to 15, 1994.

Price per person starts from JD 189 - three star or 5 star hotel stays — and according to your choice, plus a breakfast together with an air ticket.

☆☆ **Al Ghardaqah plus Cairo** ☆☆ rate per person is JD 220.

Amman-Grand Palace Hotel front yard, tel.: 602460 - 698969

NOTICE OF SALE

Date: Tuesday, March 8, 1994, between the hours 9 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Location: Warehouse near 7th Circle.

Items to be sold: Used residential and office furnishings and equipment.

Type of sale: Sealed-bid. Bid forms can be obtained on the day of sale.

Conditions of sale:
- 20 per cent cash deposit required on sale day.
- Sale items will be available for inspection beginning day.
- Bids must be submitted by 1:00 p.m. sale day.
- Bids must be submitted at the warehouse.
- Bids will be opened and bidders notified beginning Wednesday, March 9, 1994.
- Items must be removed within 24 hours after notification. After that period, a 50 JD per day storage fee will be assessed.
- All items are sold on a "where-is, as-is, non-returnable" basis.

TODAY AT

Cinema PHILADELPHIA Tel.: 634144	Cinema PLAZA Tel.: 699238	Cinema CONCORD Tel.: 677420	AMMOUN THEATRE Tel.: 618274 - 618275	Nabil Al Mashini Theatre Tel.: 675571	AHLAI THEATRE Nabil & Hisham's Tel.: 625155
THELMA AND LOUISE Shows: 12:30, 3, 5:30, 10:30	ROUND TRIP TO HEAVEN Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD '1' FILOFAX Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 — CONCORD '2' PASSENGER Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	Opening Soon A political comedy Forbidden × Forbidden	presents a play entitled: Al Ilm Nuron A popular political comedy Actors: Abeer Issa, Daoud Jalajel, Hassan Al Shaer, Fuad Shomali in addition to other comedians Every night at 8:15 Tickets are sold all day Coming soon: The next play	Nabil and Hisham Theatre presents Ahlan Arab Summit Conference (play) daily at 9:15 p.m. Theatre is closed Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq: U.S. will pay for hostile stand

BAGHDAD (R) — Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz said on Friday the United States will pay for its insistence to keep U.N. sanctions against Iraq. In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency (INA), Mr. Aziz warned President Bill Clinton that his advisers were pushing "U.S. policy in the region into a dead end." He said: "The notorious advisers of the American president... who prevent the Security Council from honouring its commitments towards Iraq will reap the results of their shallow and rancorous attitudes." President Clinton said on Thursday the United States would continue to apply economic sanctions against Iraq because of Baghdad's defiance of United Nations resolutions passed after the 1991 Gulf war. "Because of Iraq's failure to comply fully with United Nations Security Council resolutions, the United States will continue to apply economic sanctions to deter Iraq from threatening peace and stability in the region." Mr. Clinton said in a report to Congress. Iraq is under stringent U.N. trade sanctions imposed in response to its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. "The trend to keep sanctions on Iraq was not only unfair and hostile but wrong and will not realise for the planners of U.S. policy their declared aims," Mr. Aziz said. Mr. Aziz said Iraq had honoured all its ceasefire commitments and the Security Council was now obliged to lift the oil embargo "without delay and (addition) of new conditions."

U.S.: No plan to deport Demjanjuk

CINCINNATI (AP) — The U.S. government said it has no plans for an immediate effort to deport accused Nazi guard John Demjanjuk, even though a court order blocking deportation has expired. The department is still fighting a case against Mr. Demjanjuk in a Cleveland federal court and may take another aspect of the dispute to the U.S. Supreme Court. But it will not try to have Mr. Demjanjuk deported while the cases are pending, spokesman Carl Stern said Thursday from Washington. Mr. Demjanjuk was convicted in 1988 and sentenced to death in Israel on charges he was a Nazi guard in Poland during World War II. The Israeli supreme court overturned that conviction in July allowing Mr. Demjanjuk, 73, a retired autoworker from suburban Cleveland, to return to the United States in September. The 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Nov. 17 that the U.S. Justice Department defrauded the federal courts by not disclosing evidence Mr. Demjanjuk could have used to fight his 1986 extradition to Israel. The court last week refused to rehear the ruling. The Justice Department has 90 days to appeal to the supreme court but it has not made that decision. Mr. Stern said.

Colombian rebels free American

BOGOTA (AP) — An American freed by leftist rebels stepped off an airplane after a flight from the jungle region where he had been held for a year, and ran into the arms of his brother. Lewis Manning, freed Wednesday by National Liberation Army rebels in Choco state, 300 kilometres west of Bogota, hugged his brother, Bob Manning, colleagues and other friends at Bogota's airport on Thursday. The rebel group, known by its initials in Spanish as the ELN, threatened to abduct more Americans as "prisoners of war," for ransom. Its message was conveyed in faxes to local news media this week. The National Liberation Army and a loosely allied group have recently stepped up attacks on American interests, bombing three Mormon churches, a Coca-Cola bottling plant and U.S. bank branches.

Rock star reported in coma after overdose

ROME (AP) — Kurt Cobain, lead singer of the rock group Nirvana, was hospitalised in a coma Friday after taking an overdose of tranquilisers with champagne, the Italian news agency ANSA said. The hospital refused to confirm that Mr. Cobain was in a coma, and said only that he had been transferred to a private clinic after initial emergency room treatment. ANSA said the 28-year Cobain was stricken after taking a huge dose of roipnol, a tranquiliser, with champagne. Police said he was taken to the public Polyclinic Hospital around 7 a.m. and transferred to an unidentified private clinic five hours later. The leader of the Seattle Grunge rock group was reportedly on vacation in Rome with his wife, singer Courtney Love, between European engagements.

Ransom named U.S. envoy to Bahrain

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton has nominated David M. Ransom, a veteran foreign service officer, to be U.S. ambassador to Bahrain. In a State Department career which began in 1965, Mr. Ransom has served as desk officer for Southern Europe and for the Arabian Peninsula. Among numerous other posts, he was deputy chief of mission at the U.S. embassy in the United Arab Emirates. He also served in the U.S. embassy in Damascus.

Prosecution helped acquit Davidians

WACO (AP) — Testimony from the Branch Davidian who was the government's key witness helped jurors decide to acquit 11 cult members of murder, the jury foreswoman has told the Waco (Texas) Tribune-Herald. The testimony of Kathryn Schroeder and two other followers of doomsday prophet David Koresh carried the most weight in helping the panel decide the 11 cultists were not guilty of murdering four federal agents during a Feb. 28, 1993, shootout, said Sarah L. Bain. Mrs. Schroeder also had been charged with murder but agreed to testify in exchange for admitting to the lesser crime of forcibly resisting federal officers. Victorine Hollingsworth and Marjorie Thomas, two others inside the compound during the shootout, also testified for the prosecution. Ms. Hollingsworth and Ms. Thomas were never charged. "The ones that had the most impact were probably those who had been in the compound," Ms. Bain was quoted in Thursday's Tribune-Herald. "Their testimony also was kind of damaging on some of the single charges, some of the firearms charges and actual participation during the raid itself, what various individuals had done during the raid itself," said Ms. Bain, a high school Spanish teacher. The jury on Saturday acquitted all 11 defendants, including three Britons, a Canadian, a Jamaican and an Australian, of murder and conspiracy to commit murder. Convicted five Davidians of the lesser charge of voluntary manslaughter, which carries a maximum 10 year prison term. Two others were convicted of weapons charges.

Man accused in porno movie fire

LONDON (AP) — A man charged with murdering nine patrons of a pornographic movie club by setting fire to the building was remanded in custody by a court Thursday to await trial. David Lauers, 34, who is deaf and works as a garment industry cutter, is accused of starting Saturday's fire at the Dream City movie club by pouring gasoline through a mail slot and setting alight. Flames swept through the seedy, four-storey Victorian building near London's financial district, trapping about 30 men patrons. Police said they had been watching pornographic videos. Press reports said homosexuals and heterosexuals frequented the club. No motive for the alleged attack was given at Thursday's brief hearing at Highbury corner magistrates court in North London and no trial date was announced. It was the largest death toll from a fire in the capital since the fire at King's Cross subway station in November 1987 that killed 31 people.

Turks protest Hebron mosque killings

ISTANBUL (R) — About 1,000 Muslims leaving Friday prayers in central Istanbul burned the American flag and chanted anti-Israeli slogans to protest the killing of more than 60 Muslim worshippers in the occupied West Bank a week ago. There were no reports of injuries or arrests.

Officials, community leaders welcome Jordan-Vatican ties

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and the Jordanian Catholic community welcomed the long expected announcement of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the Vatican and the Kingdom.

Information Minister Jawad Anani said that Jordan believes that this move "will contribute towards the establishment of just and durable peace in the Middle East in a manner which would guarantee the human rights called for by the monotheistic religions."

"We welcome this step, especially that the Vatican represents most Christians of the world," Dr. Anani said in a telephone interview with the Jordan Times.

Catholic community leader Bishop Salim Sayegh received "with pride and pleasure" the Vatican's decision to exchange ambassadors with Jordan.

In a telephone interview, Bishop Sayegh said he was officially informed of the Vatican's long awaited decision Thursday morning.

"We are truely very proud and happy" the Bishop said, adding that his happiness is accentuated by the fact that "I am a Christian heading the Catholic community here and that I am Jordanian."

"This diplomatic representation between Jordan and the Vatican has been our wish for a long time, especially that there are no problems between the regime here and the Catholic community," Bishop Sayegh said.

He also said that the Catholic community in the Kingdom has been "expecting the news for months now."

A spokesman at the Italian embassy here said expectations were that diplomatic relations would be established between the Kingdom and the Vatican immediately after the Vatican announced that it would establish relations with Israel.

The Vatican and Israel recognised each other in December and Israeli leaders have invited the pope to visit the Jewish state whenever he wanted.

The spokesman said all the negotiations for the establishment of diplomatic ties were conducted in Rome between the Kingdom's ambassador there and Vatican officials.

This move comes at the heels of an announcement by pope John Paul in January that before the year 2000 he wanted to visit the principal holy sites of the Old and New Testaments, a trip which could include Israel, Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Turkey.

The pope is due next month to visit Lebanon, recovering from a devastating 15-year civil war between Christians and Muslims.

The Kingdom already has an Apostolic delegation and headquarters in Amman, which Bishop Sayegh believed will become the Vatican embassy. He had no details on other details and arrangements.

Abul Abbas vows to avenge massacre

AMMAN (AP) — Palestinian leader Mohammad Abbas, in comments published Friday, vowed to avenge the recent slaying of Muslim worshippers in the Israeli-occupied West Bank town of Hebron.

In an interview with Jordan's Arabic-language daily Al Dustour newspaper, Mr. Abbas also urged Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat to quit peace negotiations with Israel.

"We will undertake all necessary measures to avenge the blood of the men who were martyred, the children who were killed and the widows who cried," Mr. Abbas said in the interview conducted in his headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq.

"We want our people to know that the blood of our martyrs... will not go ignored," he said.

"We have great hope that God will help us to wipe off the tears of the widows and the children who lost their fathers and brothers in the ugly massacre," he added.

Mr. Abbas, also known as Abul Abbas, heads the pro-Iraqi wing of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) which in 1984 split from the mother group that was affiliated with Syria.

Abul Abbas is accused of masterminding the 1984 hijack of an Italian cruiser, Achille Lauro. An American passenger was killed in the hijack. The PLF is on the U.S. wanted list.

An Italian court found Abul Abbas guilty of the hijack. Some of the hijackers were jailed, but Abul Abbas avoided capture.

The PLF was also responsible for an aborted attack on a Tel Aviv beach in May 1990. Mr. Arafat's refusal to denounce the attack led to a suspension of an 18-month American dialogue with the PLO. Mr. Abbas was a member of the organisation's Executive Committee.

The dialogue was resumed along with the signing of the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO peace accord.

In the interview, Abul Abbas chastised Mr. Arafat for his quest for a negotiated settlement with Israel and urged him to withdraw from the 28-month-old U.S.-backed Middle East peace process.

"These negotiations will only bring shame upon the Palestinian people," he said. "We are pained with the political performance of the Palestinian leadership."

"I advise the PLO to depart from the swamp which it fell in without hesitation and before a tragedy takes place," Abul Abbas warned.

"I advise the PLO to depart from the swamp which it fell in without hesitation and before a tragedy takes place," Abul Abbas warned.

He said that "armed struggle is the only option" for the Palestinians to liberate the West Bank and Gaza.

PRINCE VISITS WRITER: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan late Thursday visited prominent Jordanian writer and historian Rox Ben Zaid Al Uzaizi at his house to inquire about his health condition. Prince Hassan conveyed to Mr. Uzaizi, author of many books and a columnist, the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein. Mr. Uzaizi read out a poem (see photo) welcoming Prince Hassan and voicing pride in the leadership of King Hussein and the Hashemite family. Prince Hassan was accompanied on the visit by Deputy Prime Minister Masan Abu Nowar and his private advisor Mohammad Al Saqqaf. Also Thursday, Prince Hassan hosted an iftar in honour of retired army officers.

Hekmatyar prevents food from entering Kabul

KABUL (AP) — The United Nations tried for a third straight day Friday to send a food convoy into this battered capital, but the prime minister's forces refused to let it pass.

"I'm afraid it will not enter Kabul today," said Sitorios Mousouris, the U.N.'s special representative for Afghanistan. He spoke to the Associated Press from his office in Islamabad, Pakistan.

The convoy, consisting of six trucks with 90 tonnes of food, is parked in Bagrami, 20 kilometres southeast of the Kabul, while the United Nations negotiates with renegade Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Mr. Hekmatyar had agreed to lift his blockade of Kabul and allow the convoy into the city, where food stocks are running out.

However, his forces made additional demands at the last minute and prevented the convoy from entering the city, said aid officials

Mr. Hekmatyar imposed the blockade after he and his ally, warlord Rasbid Dostum, attacked Kabul on Jan. 1 in a bid to oust President Burhanddin Rabbani.

Despite a sustained assault that left about 1,000 dead and around 12,000 wounded, Mr. Rabbani still controls most of the capital. Mr. Hekmatyar and General Dostum are entrenched on the southern and eastern fringes of the city and control the main roads leading into town.

Some 300,000 to 400,000 residents — about half of Kabul's population — have been driven from their homes, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Some have fled Kabul, other have found shelter with relatives or friends. But about 50,000 people are living in mosques, schools and abandoned buildings.

They are dependent on handouts from the Red Cross and other aid groups whose supplies have been depleted.

The convoy left Wednesday from the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar on what should have been a one-day journey to Kabul.

However, the trucks have been stopped three times by various factions that control stretches of the highway.

There are about 10 separate factions in the Afghan civil war. In addition, there are numerous bands of autonomous fighters, each imposing their own laws at gunpoint.

The factions fought in a loose alliance for 13 years before ousting a communist government in April 1992. They have spent the last two years battling each other.

In Geneva, a U.N. spokesman said tens of thousands of refugees who have fled the carnage in Kabul are dicing with death from unexploded mines littering camps near the Pakistani border.

Rupert Colville, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, said 1,600 people were arriving daily in the eastern city of Jalalabad. More than 200,000 Afghans have flooded into camps in the area since the civil war flared up again Jan. 1.

Mr. Colville said the United Nations was especially concerned that the fighting, for weeks confined to bombardments of the capital, now appeared to be spreading and there were reports of "thousands" of people on the move in northwestern Afghanistan.

He said one fifth of the new arrivals in Jalalabad had fled from places other than Kabul.

Cairo police, protesters clash

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian police fired scores of teargas bombs Friday — some inside one of Cairo's oldest mosques — to disperse an estimated 10,000 demonstrators protesting the Hebron massacre.

The clash occurred after Friday prayers at Al Azhar Mosque. Ignoring pleas by a preacher, worshippers surged from the mosque, broke a chain across the only entrance and marched into the street. Police immediately opened up with tear-gas bombs.

An Associated Press reporter saw at least 30 people being arrested, some badly beaten. A security officer said later all were questioned for a couple of hours, then released.

Police surrounded most major mosques in the capital after Gad Al Haq Al Gad Al Haq, the grand sheikh of Al Azhar and Egypt's leading Islamic clergyman, asked congregations across the country to pray for the Palestinians slain by an Israeli settler in the Ibrahimi mosque a week earlier.

Opposition party leaders requested a permit to march from Al Azhar after prayers but it was denied. Instead, their leaders held an anti-Israel conference inside.

Outside, veiled women members of the Islamic-oriented Labour Party raised banners reading "revenge ... revenge" and "sever ties with Israel" and "Our government deals with the Jews, and they are killing Muslims in mosques."

As soon as prayers ended, young men representing Islamic groups and the leftist Nasserite Party raised black banners with anti-Israel slogans. One read: "There is no God but God: The Jews are the enemies of God."

After breaking the chain across the entrance, they rushed into Al Azhar Street waving copies of the Holy Koran and scattering leaflets.

Driven back inside the mosque by tear-gas, demonstrators first threw stones from an open area inside, then tried repeatedly to regain the street. Police suppressed them with tear-gas fired inside Al Azhar

After police controlled the mosque area, opposition leaders emerged surrounded by supporters. "There is no freedom for the people," shouted Seif Al Islam Hassan Al Banna of the officially outlawed Muslim Brotherhood.

Faisal-Kreisha row set a precedent for not setting a precedent, observers assert

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The recent public row between Lower House of Parliament members Toujan Faisal and Jamal Kreisha has raised popular awareness of the value of individual freedoms and rights which are essential to the democratisation of any society, Jordanian political analysts and observers say.

"Precedent-setting measures to protect individual freedoms and rights are a fundamental part of the growth of democracy, and, as such, every measure taken to assure the evolution of those rights is a step towards further implementation of the democratic process," said a veteran Jordanian politician commenting on the Faisal-Kreisha dispute.

But Deputy Faisal's failure on Wednesday to obtain support from her fellow deputies to prosecute Mr. Kreisha on charges of "slander, defamation and assault" appears to have set back precedent-setting actions, many observers said.

"It was a set-back on all accounts," said a former member of the Lower House who spoke on condition of anonymity. "Many people blamed Ms. Faisal's failure to obtain support on her style of speaking and her aggressive, 'provocative' personality, but her personality should not make us deviate from the fact that she is in the right," added the former Lower House deputy.

During the dispute, a result of an argument on the merits of martial law, a series of personal and ethnic [illegible] as well as an ashtray were hurled at Ms. Faisal by Mr. Kreisha.

Her fellow deputies, led by Speaker Taher Al Masri, proposed solving the matter by having Mr. Kreisha publicly apologise. Ms. Faisal refused the public apology saying that "this is not a tribal dispute in which a cup of coffee and a sorry will do. This is a political matter on the issue of personal and public rights and responsibilities."

Most political observers and parliamentarians pointed out that while "Ms. Faisal may be right," Jordan is still largely governed by a tribal social and political structure.

"Tribal norms are still very prevalent in our society and many of them are very fair and impartial," insisted one member of the Lower House.

But many local proponents of a more Western type of democracy felt that the Faisal-Kreisha dispute was a good opportunity to set a precedent and introduce new norms of public behaviour.

"This would have been a good opportunity to introduce some precedent-setting standards," said a well-respected human rights lawyer.

"It is not an issue of tribal and ethnic communities as much as that different groups and individuals in the society can be taught that all citizens are equal and that tribal might or community backing won't make a right out of a wrong," added the lawyer.

"This is a traditional and not a very modernised Parliament," said the head of a local political researeb centre.

While many members of the Lower House as well as political observers referred to Ms. Faisal's "strong position" because of her gender, saying "people showed great sympathy towards her because of her gender," others found the attitude condescending.

"No one should have the right to hit the other or to make insulting reference to their creed, national origin, gender and or their religion and still be accepted by the public at large as a deputy of the people," said one active feminist.

Ms. Faisal's tendency to be "undiplomatic" and "condescending" towards her fellow deputies, was cited as a main reason why the case lost a lot of support among her peers and the general public.

"She told us that she had disciplined children and now she would discipline us," said one of her fellow deputies citing Ms. Faisal.

On Wednesday Ms. Faisal told her fellow deputies that the vote to accept the Lower House of Parliament's Judiciary Committee's decision not to lift Mr. Kreisha's immunity was a test of their dedication to democratic principles.

A political commentator who attended the session concluded that "the vote was against Toujan and I doubt that much thought was given to the principles of her case; she had isolated herself as an individual and the deputies were getting back at her and a chance to set precedent was lost."

COLUMN

Diana washed the dishes, male friend says

LONDON (R) — A former riding instructor to the Princess of Wales portrayed Princess Diana as an easy-going friend who thought nothing of washing the dishes when she came to visit. Major James Hewitt said Princess Diana, an unhappy wife, doting mother and generous friend, wrote him letters and shipped out lavish food hampers from London's exclusive Fortnum and Mason store to cheer him up while he served in the Gulf War. "She came to stay and met my mother as any of close friends would. She was very natural," he told the Daily Express. "She would do the washing-up and help out. She was the perfect house guest," he said. "She is a very understated person who wants to be as normal as possible and be with her friends, having fun." The rival Today newspaper ridiculed Hewitt for what it said were his "did or didn't I kiss? I'm not telling" revelations following the first instalment Tuesday when he said only: "I'd defy a lot of men not to find her attractive but you have to learn to control your emotions and feelings in that respect." Princess Diana gave Maj. Hewitt a diamond-studded tie pin to thank him for their riding lessons in London's Hyde Park and in Idyllic Parkland at her Highgrove country estate in western England, where he joined her inner circle of friends. Her husband Prince Charles, the heir to the British throne from whom she separated in 1992, only rarely turned up for the weekend house parties there with the princess's young friends. "They were lovely, natural weekends," Maj. Hewitt said. "She was very relaxed, she was certainly the hostess and acted as such." Maj. Hewitt, a dashing upper-class army officer who loves riding, hunting, shooting and polo, said Princess Diana's letters boosted his morale while he served in the Gulf War in 1991, although her own morale in a worsening relationship with Prince Charles was sinking. "I knew that privately it was a bad time for her." Maj. Hewitt, whose friendship with the princess has now frosted over according to the Daily Express, said Princess Diana's two children, Princes Harry and William, were the most important thing in her life. She quit public engagements last year to spend time with them. "She does not spoil them, they are extremely well-mannered, and delightful boys," he said.

Girl, trapped outside 6 hours, nearly dies

REGINA, Saskatchewan (AP) — A 2-year-old girl accidentally locked outside her home for almost six hours in sub-zero temperatures was "like a block of ice" by the time she was found lying on her front door step, doctors said. Karlee Kosolofski had no heartbeat and was nearly frozen when she arrived at Plains Hospital in Regina. She remained in serious condition. "She was practically dead," said John Burgess, one of the doctors who revived her. "It's just amazing to get a child this age who literally comes in like a block of ice." The girl apparently followed her father out of the house when he left about 2:30 a.m. to begin work at a dairy in Regina, the capital of the central Canadian province of Saskatchewan. He did not notice Karlee following him, wearing a coat and boots over her pajamas. She was trapped outside when the front door swung shut and locked behind her. Her mother found her after nearly six hours in temperatures of about minus [illegible] F (minus 22 C). An ambulance rushed her to the hospital 3[illegible] miles (50 kms) away. Dr. Burgess said the girl's body temperature had fallen to [illegible] degrees F (14 degrees C). [illegible] took surgeons more than three hours to bring her body temperature back up to normal. "It took nearly an hour and a half for her heart to start beating," Dr. Burgess said. Dr. Joy Dobson said the girl was in intensive care with extensive frostbite to her legs, one of which may have to be amputated. But she said Karlee was alert and improving. "She's definitely very strong, very happy and very determined," her mother, Karen Kosolofski said.